

knowledge of climate, stars, plants, and nature generally possessed by the old-fashioned shepherd, who, as I have mentioned on a previous occasion, was, despite his frequent inability to write or read, thoroughly and completely educated and equipped for the purposes of his calling.

Much has been made in works on the Bible and in sermons, of the fact that Syrian shepherds lead, instead of driving, their flocks; but, as the author points out, and as everyone who has lived in the country ought to be aware, this is by no means a peculiarity of Eastern lands. Very interesting are the notes on sheep-bells, which are stated to date from a remote antiquity, and it is therefore the more remarkable to find that they are apparently unknown in the Isle of Man and Scotland. With this I must take leave of a delightful book.

R. L.

DR. ALEXANDER BRUCE.

NEUROLOGY and medicine have sustained a heavy loss in the death of Dr. Alexander Bruce, of Edinburgh, physician and editor of *The Review of Neurology and Psychiatry*. It was known for some time that Dr. Bruce was in ill-health. The news of his death, however, came as a shock to many.

Born in Aberdeenshire in 1854, Dr. Bruce entered the arts faculty of Aberdeen University in 1870. He graduated in 1874 with first-class classical honours, being awarded the Town Council gold medal as the most distinguished graduate of his year. He had an equally brilliant career in medicine at Edinburgh University, and, on his graduation in 1879 as M.B., C.M., with first-class honours, he obtained the Ettles Scholarship as the best student of his year. During his tenure of the Leckie-Mactear Fellowship he studied at Vienna, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and Paris.

Returning to England, he commenced his professional career by being for a time assistant clinical clerk at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield. In 1882 he took his M.D. degree, obtaining a gold medal for his thesis. Settling in Edinburgh, he gradually built up a large general practice. He became a lecturer on pathology at the Surgeons' Hall and pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and to the Longmore Hospital for Incurables. He also lectured at the Surgeons' Hall on neurology, and later on the practice of medicine, while he was appointed a physician and lecturer on clinical medicine at the Royal Infirmary.

By this time he had acquired a considerable reputation as a consultant, especially in diseases of the nervous system. His contributions to the literature of this subject were very numerous, being marked especially by the care with which pathological lesions were investigated and described. The chief characteristic of his work was thoroughness, and in the preparation of these published reports of cases no labour, whether of bedside observation or of microscopic work, was spared. He did not restrict himself to neurological subjects, but published communications on general pathology and medicine. He also translated Thoma's "Lehrbuch der Pathologie."

It was characteristic of Dr. Bruce that he should undertake pioneer research into the minute anatomy of the brain and spinal cord. It is with this work that his name will perhaps be most associated. He began by publishing "Illustrations of the Mid and Hind Brain" and "Topographical Atlas of the Spinal Cord." Numerous researches on the nuclei of the cerebral and spinal nerves, on cranial nuclei, and on the nerve-fibre connections of these we owe to him. A notable example of this work is "Distribution of the Cells in the Intermedio-Lateral Tract of the Spinal Cord"

(Trans. Roy. Soc., Edin., 1906), a research which must form the basis of all subsequent work on this subject. Feeling the need of a "Centralblatt" in English which should contain short, original communications and provide abstracts and a complete bibliography of recent work on neurological subjects, he founded in 1903 *The Review of Neurology and Psychiatry*. To the interests of this work he devoted a large part of his time, with what success only those who work on neurological subjects can adequately appreciate. Just before his last illness he had finished a translation into English of Oppenheim's great "Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten," while he was busily engaged, along with Dr. Dawson, in an investigation on the lymphatics of the spinal cord.

Dr. Bruce was a strenuous worker. It was only by systematic economy of his time that he was able to keep abreast of his multifarious duties. His influence over the younger workers with whom he was associated was great. Among his *confrères* he was held in highest respect, as well for his uprightness and generosity as for his ability. As a mark of his distinction in neurology he was in 1899 made a corresponding member of the Neurological Society of Paris. In 1906 the Royal Society of Edinburgh awarded him the Keith prize for his work on the intermedio-lateral tract, and in 1909 the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He is survived by a widow, two daughters, and three sons, one of whom has already made important contributions to neurological science.

NOTES.

THE council of the London Mathematical Society has awarded the De Morgan medal for 1911 to Prof. H. Lamb, F.R.S., in recognition of his researches in mathematical physics.

THE British Empire League and the British Science Guild are combining to entertain the Colonial Prime Ministers and other distinguished visitors at a banquet at the Savoy Hotel to-morrow, June 16. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire (president of the British Empire League and vice-president of the British Science Guild) will take the chair.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Economic Biologists is to be held at the rooms of the Linnean Society, Burlington House, London, on July 6.

ACCORDING to the June number of *The Selborne Magazine*, the annual conversazione of the Selborne Society held in London on May 5 was the most successful of the whole series. It was announced that the original MS. of Gilbert White's Nature Calendar is to be published shortly.

MR. FRANK A. PERRET, of Springfield, Mass., is proceeding to Hawaii to open and take charge of the volcanic observatory which has been established there through the combined efforts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

A PROPOSAL will be laid before the members of the Aeronautical Society to reconstitute the society by the institution of the following five grades of membership, viz. ordinary members, associate members, fellows, associate fellows, and students, the last three categories being reserved for persons engaged in technical work connected with aeronautics, while the first two are open to all who are interested in the work of the society.