

and took a prominent part in all public health and educational movements; he was health officer to Port Jackson, president of the Board of Health, chairman of the board of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, trustee of the Australian Museum, and held many other public posts too numerous to mention. His activities in so many directions were recognised by the conferment of honorary degrees (M.D., Universities of Melbourne and Sydney; LL.D., University of Edinburgh; D.Sc., University of Durham), and finally by the honour of knighthood in 1914.

Anderson Stuart was held in high affection by his students, colleagues, and numerous friends in both hemispheres. He leaves a widow and several sons (who saw service in the recent war) to mourn his loss, and to them our heartfelt sympathy is offered.

By the death of MR. J. S. MACARTHUR on March 16 industrial chemistry has lost a notable exponent. Mr. MacArthur's name will always be remembered in connection with the Forrest-MacArthur patent for the extraction of gold from its ores by means of cyanide. It is given to few men to discover a process which has had such a far-reaching effect in almost every branch of civilised life. The influence of an enormously increased quantity of gold available for mankind has been—as, indeed, it must be—profound, no matter whether it is for good or for evil. Compared with the huge sums of money involved, the amount accruing to Mr. MacArthur out of this patent was infinitesimal. His type was essentially a pioneering one. The initial work in connection with the extraction of gold was carried out with small funds in a laboratory which was in reality a cellar at the back of a Glasgow tenement house. After this work was completed, Mr. MacArthur engaged in many commercial ventures in connection with chemistry and mining, but, with the possible exception of his last, none of them seemed to possess the elements of permanent success. This was the extraction of radium from its ores, which he carried on first of all in Cheshire, and then practically on the shores of Loch Lomond, in order to avail himself of the purest possible water. He was proud of his works there, and delighted to feel that he was able to carry on his work in the midst of such beautiful surroundings. Mr. MacArthur's personality was delightful and genial. His travels had been world-wide, and to anyone interested in mineralogy and travel he was indeed entertaining.

MR. JAMES PROCTER, whose death occurred on March 6, was born in 1841. He took a prominent part in the design and manufacture of the engines required for blast-furnace work and iron and steel works, and is said to have been the first British engineer to construct blowing engines with mechanically controlled valves. Mr. Procter was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Iron and Steel Institute.

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Notes.

As president of the British Association at its meeting in Cardiff on August 24–28 next, Prof. W. A. Herdman, of Liverpool University, will deal in his inaugural address with oceanography, of which he will give a general survey, and discuss in detail certain special problems and recent investigations, with particular reference to the sea-fisheries. The following presidents of sections have been appointed:—A (Mathematics and Physics), Prof. A. S. Eddington; B (Chemistry), Mr. C. T. Heycock; C (Geology), Dr. F. A. Bather; D (Zoology), Prof. J. Stanley Gardiner; E (Geography), Mr. J. McFarlane; F (Economics), Dr. J. H. Clapham; G (Engineering), Prof. C. F. Jenkin; H (Anthropology), Prof. Karl Pearson; I (Physiology), Mr. J. Barcroft; K (Botany), Miss E. R. Saunders; L (Education), Sir Robert Blair; and M (Agriculture), Prof. F. W. Keeble.

IN the interests of physiological and medical research, we may congratulate ourselves that the debate on the mischievous and unnecessary Dogs Protection Bill of Sir F. Banbury was "adjourned" on Friday last. Owing to the length of the discussion on the really important Early Closing Bill, that on the former Bill was prolonged until the rising of the House. It may be pointed out once again that no other animal of the size of the dog can be kept under laboratory conditions in a healthy state, and that the general chemical changes in this animal are closely similar to those of man, mainly owing to its omnivorous nature. The letter by Dr. Thos. Lewis in the *Times* of March 19 shows how obstructive the exclusion of the dog would be to one branch of investigation of great practical utility; and an equally strong case could easily be made out for many others. The report of the last Royal Commission on Vivisection shows that adequate provision against any possible cruelty has already been made, even if it were necessary to do so.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has approved the award of the Royal medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows:—Founder's medal to Mr. H. St. John B. Philby, for his two journeys in south-central Arabia, 1917 and 1918; and Patron's medal to Prof. Jovan Cvijic, Rector of the University of Belgrade, for distinguished studies of the geography of the Balkan Peninsula. The council of the society has awarded the Victoria medal to Lt.-Col. H. S. L. Winterbotham, for his exceptional services to the country in the initiation and development of scientific methods of artillery survey and the production of high-class maps of inaccessible areas. Other awards are:—Murchison grant to Miss Czaplicka, for her ethnographical and geographical work in northern Siberia; Cuthbert Peek grant to Mr. A. W. Pearson Chinnery, to assist him in continuing his work in the unexplored parts of New Guinea; Back grant to Mr. J. M. Wordie, for his scientific work on the Antarctic Expedition of 1914–17; and Gill memorial to Mr. Reginald Farrer, for his journeys on the Chinese borders of Tibet.