

results of the investigations at Glastonbury, which was published in 1911-12.

The importance of Munro's researches was widely recognised. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy, of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and of the more important anthropological and archaeological societies of the Continent.

Munro's work as an archæologist was marked by a cautious reserve and a great sanity in judgment. Yet, on occasion, none could be quicker than he in arriving at a conclusion, which further investigation usually proved to be well within the limits of accuracy. It was characteristic of him that he rarely accepted the results of others without personal investigation, and the great mass of information which he digested and summarised in his published works had been largely tested and checked by his own observations. His thorough mastery of his subject as a practical investigator was suggested even in such a trifle as the way in which he handled a stone implement.

E. N. FALLAIZE.

IRISH education has sustained a severe loss by the death of the RT. HON. W. J. M. STARKIE, Resident Commissioner of National Education. For the past twenty-two years Dr. Starkie guided the rather cranky ship of Irish primary education through the troubled sea of clerical management. After a brilliant school career, he obtained the highest classical distinctions at Cambridge University and Trinity College, Dublin, including the fellowship of the latter college. In 1897 he was appointed president of Queen's College, Galway, but after a brief period of office became Resident Commissioner and *ex-officio* chairman of the Board of National Education. As a member of the Viceregal Commission on manual and practical instruction, he played an important part in framing the scheme of reformation of the aims and methods of Irish education, which later he was called upon to administer. Upon his shoulders rested in large measure the responsibility of effecting the change from a mechanical system of payment by results to an inspection system with a broader view of the functions of a school. Knowing the magnitude of the forces opposed to change, he displayed conspicuous courage in carrying far-reaching reforms to a successful issue. His address on "Recent Reforms in Irish Education" at the Belfast meeting of the British Association in 1902 was a strenuous and courageous exposure of the weaknesses of Irish education; it aroused much bitter criticism from the clerical managers.

Dr. Starkie was also chairman of the Board of Intermediate Education, and thus occupied a unique position in Irish education, which probably owes more to him than to any one man during the last half-century. He was a brilliant essayist and one of the first Greek scholars of his time.

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Notes.

AN important statement on the development of the synthetic dye industry was made by the chairman of the Colour Users' Association at Manchester on July 20. Mr. Vernon Clay referred to two very urgent reasons why the dye industry in England should be developed to the very utmost, one being the real necessity that existed from the commercial and industrial side, and the other the necessity from the point of view of national security. Only a country possessing a large dye-making plant which could alternatively be used for the production of the various organic chemical substances employed in war could hope to be in a proper position in any future struggle, for the next war would be essentially a chemists' war, and start on a very large scale. The Government has recognised that for national security it is essential that synthetic dye factories equal to those of any other possible hostile nation shall be in existence, and to further this object the President of the Board of Trade has stated that the pledge to the synthetic dye industry, that the importation of synthetic dyes shall be permitted only under licence, will be given effect to in legislation as quickly as possible. Although the British output of dyes already exceeds the pre-war importation from Germany, there are several important dyes which are not yet manufactured in this country, and a licensing scheme such as is promised appears to be the only proper means of fostering the industry and of encouraging manufacturers gradually to extend their range until the country is absolutely self-contained as regards its production of dyes and the necessary intermediate products.

THE question of the universities and the excess profits duty was the subject of debate in the House of Lords on July 21. By the concession already proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer the position is roughly this:—While the excess profits duty will be charged at 60 per cent., the State, as a matter of fact, will bear 12 per cent. of any charitable contributions made by a business firm. Earl Grey, however, in the hope of inducing private benefactors to make larger subscriptions, wished the Government to show more liberality and to consider the *total* remission of the duty so far as it affected the universities. On behalf of the Government the Earl of Crawford could not grant the further concession, but, in the course of his reply made an important announcement regarding university grants-in-aid. He stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was prepared to submit to Parliament an increase of the present vote of 1,000,000*l.* to 1,500,000*l.* in the Estimates for the year 1921-22, and, in addition, to consider the advisability of proposing to Parliament a further non-recurrent sum to assist the universities in meeting the grievance of those of their senior members who were precluded from profiting to the full by the benefits of the federated super-annuation scheme of the universities. No pledge was given in either case, and both proposals are subject to the overriding necessities of national finance.