

Obituary

PROF. J. C. F. GUYON.

THE death of Prof. Jean Casmir Félix Guyon, at the end of his eighty-ninth year, removes the last of three famous Paris specialists in genito-urinary surgery; of these Civiale was much the senior, whereas Albarran (1860-1912) was Guyon's brilliant pupil and succeeded him in the professorial chair so far back as 1896. Guyon, though naturally little known to the younger generation of British surgeons, ranks with the late Sir Henry Thompson (1820-1904), with whom professionally he may be compared. Both these pioneers adopted and improved the eminent American surgeon Bigelow's practice of litholapaxy, or the complete removal of all the fragments of a crushed calculus from the urinary bladder at one sitting. Guyon was recognised as a great teacher in his speciality, and for years attracted students from all parts of the world to his clinic at the Necker Hospital.

Guyon was born on July 21, 1831, at St. Denis, in the island of Réunion, and it may be mentioned as a rather curious coincidence that his famous successor, Joaquin Albarran, was also born abroad, namely, in Cuba. Guyon worked first at Nantes and then at Paris, where he was *interne* in 1854 and prosector to the faculty in 1858. His graduation thesis, on "Fibroid Tumours of the Uterus," bears the date 1860; in 1862 he became surgeon to the Paris hospitals, in 1863 *agrégé*, and professor in 1877. His two chief works, "Leçons cliniques sur les maladies des voies urinaires" (1881)—which passed into a second edition in 1885, and a third in two volumes in 1894-96—and "Leçons cliniques sur les affections chirurgicales de la vessie et de la prostate" (1886)—edited by his former resident, Dr. F. P. Guiard—embodied his teaching at the Necker Hospital, and were both translated into German

and into Russian. Though famous as a genito-urinary specialist, Guyon took a broad view of surgery, adopted Lister's methods as early as 1876, and was the author of a work of 672 pages on general surgery, dealing with diagnosis and operations in general, entitled "Éléments de chirurgie clinique." Although now somewhat forgotten from his great age and the interval of almost a quarter of a century since he quitted the chair of genito-urinary surgery, Guyon received the honours due to his work and position; he was a Commander of the Legion of Honour, a member of the Institute (Academy of Sciences) and of the Academy of Medicine, and on August 3, 1900, his former pupils, of whom Lucas-Championnière was the senior, presented him with a medal executed by Bottée as a mark of their affection and admiration.

MR. ALEXANDER JAMES MONTGOMERIE BELL, who died on July 3, aged seventy-four, was a fellow of the Geological Society who devoted his leisure for many years to the study of the deposits in southern England in which palæolithic flint implements occur. His researches on the gravels and associated deposits at Wolvercote, near Oxford, were especially valuable, and were described in a paper published in the Geological Society's Journal in 1904. He regarded certain disturbed layers as "ice-drifts," and emphasised the importance of distinguishing "rainwash-drifts" from regular deposits. From an examination of the fossil remains of plants and beetles, he concluded that in late Pleistocene times the climate of the Thames valley was more continental than it is at present. It is understood that Mr. Bell left a general summary of the results of his researches in a manuscript, which we hope may be found in a form suitable for publication.

Notes.

DR. G. C. SIMPSON, F.R.S., Meteorologist to the Government of India, has been appointed Director of the Meteorological Office as successor to Sir Napier Shaw, who retires on reaching the age-limit after brilliant pioneer service. Dr. Simpson was meteorologist and physicist to the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13, and served on the Indian Munitions Board from 1917 to 1919. In 1905 he was appointed a Scientific Assistant in the Meteorological Office, and in 1906 joined the staff of the Indian Meteorological Department. He is the author of a number of papers of scientific importance, including one on the electricity of rain and its origin in thunderstorms, published in the Phil. Trans. in 1909. Only last year Dr. Simpson completed an elaborate discussion of the meteorological work of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13. As successor to Sir Napier Shaw his appointment promises a continuation of progress along lines which will advance meteorological science and

maintain the high position which the British Meteorological Office now occupies through its work in recent years.

DR. L. V. KING has been appointed Macdonald professor of physics at the Macdonald Physics Building, McGill University. The chair has been held in succession by Prof. H. L. Callendar, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Dr. H. T. Barnes, Prof. H. A. Wilson, and by the present director, Dr. A. S. Eve. Prof. King was born at Toronto, Ontario, in 1886. In 1905 he graduated B.A. at McGill University with first-class honours and gold medal in mathematics and physics. He was elected scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1906, and appointed lecturer in physics at McGill University in 1910, assistant professor in 1912, and associate professor in 1915, when he also was awarded the D.Sc. degree of McGill University. In 1915 Prof. King began investigations on sub-