

an insight into the conditions of rural hygiene which was most useful to him in after life. So valuable did the central health authority of those days consider Bruce-Low's work in Helmsley that he was invited in 1887 to become a medical inspector of the Local Government Board, an invitation which he readily accepted. Here he came into intimate association with Buchanan, Thorne-Thorne, and Power, who, as successors to John Simon, were engaged in building up the English public health service. Bruce-Low conducted several inquiries and wrote many important reports for the Local Government Board, the best known of which are those on the progress and diffusion of plague, cholera, and yellow fever, the epidemiology of typhus fever, acute anterior poliomyelitis (1916), and smallpox (1918). Through his epidemiological studies Bruce-Low acquired an intimate knowledge of port sanitary administration, and in reply to an inquiry, furnished the Rockefeller Institute with a statement on the facts which led to the abandonment of quarantine in the United Kingdom. After holding many examinerships for the diploma of public health, he was appointed by

the General Medical Council their Inspector of Examinations for degrees and diplomas in public health, work which occupied him for the greater part of the last two years of his life, and the outcome of which was a valuable report and a revised scheme of examination, now under consideration. Bruce-Low became assistant medical officer of the Local Government Board in 1900, retiring in 1911. He served on the War Office Anti-typhoid Inoculation Committee, 1904-12, and on the outbreak of war he was recalled to the Local Government Board, finally retiring in 1920.

Bruce-Low was always ready to help his colleagues, to whom he was a true friend; he was proud of being a Civil Servant, and his distinguished services to his country and to the science of preventive medicine were officially recognised in 1919, when he was appointed C.B. R. T. H.

WE notice with much regret the announcement in the *Lancet* of the death, on May 18, of Prof. Charles Louis Alfonse Laveran, Foreign Member of the Royal Society, at the age of seventy-six years.

### Current Topics and Events.

THE Royal Academy of Belgium celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation on May 23 and 24 in the presence of a large number of its members and of delegates from other academies and learned institutions. On the Wednesday afternoon, May 24, numerous congratulatory addresses were presented at the Palais des Académies, and the members and visitors were afterwards received at the Hôtel de Ville by the Mayor of Brussels, M. Adolf Max, and his Aldermen, MM. Steens, Vande Meulebrouck and Coelst; a reception was held at the Palais des Académies in the evening, where an exhibition of medals and portraits connected with the history of the Academy had been arranged. The anniversary celebration itself was held in the large hall of the Academy on the afternoon of May 25 in the presence of the King, the Minister of Arts and Science, M. Hubert, formerly Rector of the University of Liège, Cardinal Mercier, and the English, French, Dutch, Spanish, and Japanese Ambassadors. The president, M. Vauthier, in an address of welcome, briefly sketched the history of the Academy and its influence on the intellectual development of Belgium. The Minister of Justice, M. Masson, tendered the congratulations of the Belgian Government, and Monseigneur Baudrillart spoke in the name of the Institut de France. Sir William B. Leishman, as vice-president of the Royal Society, represented the British universities and learned societies; he referred to the activities of Belgian bacteriologists and paid a high tribute to the work of M. Jules Bordet. MM. Lameere, Pirenne, and Verlant, representing respectively the classes of science, of letters, and moral and political sciences, and of fine arts, contributed summaries of the activities of their several sections of the Academy. Later the visitors were received by the King and the Queen at the Palace of Laeken, and in the evening a banquet was held at the Hôtel Astoria.

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THE Council of the Museums Association has addressed an emphatic protest to the Prime Minister against the proposal to reinstitute charges for admission to the National Galleries and Museums. It is only in recent years that the importance of Museums and Art Galleries as factors in the educational machinery of the country has been fully recognised, and this is due largely to the progressive action of the Government in advocating consistently the policy of free admission and in providing guides which have advanced materially the popularity and usefulness of our National Institutions. The Association feels that the proposed reversal of a policy adopted after many years' experience will be a serious set-back to Museum work, both in regard to the wider education of the nation and the provision of wholesome recreation for the people. If the proposal is adopted it is bound to have an influence on the policy of provincial Museums, the governing bodies of which are largely influenced by the example set by the State. The Association suggests that the far-reaching injury likely to follow the imposition of admission fees would greatly outweigh the small additional income, 10,000*l.*, which is expected to accrue.

THE highly controversial subject of the college-trained engineer was chosen by Prof. Frederic Bacon for his presidential address to the Swansea Engineering Association of Students of the South Wales Institute of Engineers. Prof. Bacon had a good deal to say about the conditions which the student is likely to find in works after he leaves college, and the kind of experience which he will then acquire. One of the least satisfactory features of the pre-war position was that scarcely any British firms were undertaking new development work; nearly every innovation in engineering practice was imported from the continent or the United States, a state of affairs