

it Cleland directed attention to the remarkable changes in shape which the human skull passes through at various stages of growth of the child and at later phases of life. Even in adult years head form is not fixed; significant changes may occur in the later decades of life. Between 1855 and 1906 he published more than fifty separate papers and covered a variety of subjects. He was a poet and published a book of verse, "Scala Naturae" (1887); a volume of essays, "Evolution, Expression, and Sensation" (1881); he was one of the editors of the seventh edition of Quain's "Anatomy" (1867); with his former pupil, now Principal J. Yule Mackay of University College, Dundee, he wrote a textbook on "Anatomy (Human Anatomy, General and Descriptive)," 1896, and a "Directory for the Dissection of the Human Body" (1877). A. K.

#### DR. A. DE WATTEVILLE.

DR. DE WATTEVILLE, whose death, at the age of seventy-eight, occurred in Switzerland on February 24 last, was a prominent member of the medical profession in London between twenty and thirty years ago. A Swiss by birth, scion of one of the oldest families of Switzerland, he was an Englishman by education, and qualified for the medical profession. He specialised in neurology, and more particularly in electro-therapeutics, which he did much to establish on a scientific basis. His work on "Medical Electricity," which ran through two editions—the second in 1884—established his reputation as the chief authority on the subject in Great Britain. He specially insisted on measurements of current strength as the essential condition of a rational application of electricity, and led to the milliamperes being adopted as the electro-therapeutic unit by the International Congress of Electricians.

It was, however, as editor of *Brain* that Dr. de Watteville found his chief interest and occupation. In 1883 he became associated as co-editor with the original founders and editors of this important journal—the late Sir J. C. Bucknill, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, Sir J.

Crichton-Browne, and Sir David Ferrier—and in 1886 was appointed sole editor, when *Brain* became the official journal of the newly founded Neurological Society. This post he held until 1900. On his resignation the council of the Neurological Society by unanimous resolution paid him the following well-merited tribute:

The Council accepts with great regret Dr. de Watteville's resignation of the Editorship of *Brain*, and desires to take this opportunity of recording the deep debt of gratitude that the Society owes him for the way in which he has conducted the Journal for the past twenty years. The Council feels that parting with Dr. de Watteville is an event of great moment to the Society, for he has not only brought *Brain* to a high standard of perfection and secured for it a great European reputation, but even the existence of the Journal at the present time is due to his energetic action at a critical juncture in 1880. Moreover, the Council is mindful that the Society itself took origin on Dr. de Watteville's initiative at a meeting held at his house on November 14, 1885.

Soon after resigning the editorship of *Brain*, Dr. de Watteville left London and went to reside in Switzerland, and spent the remainder of his life in quiet study and contemplation among the beautiful surroundings of his native land. Dr. de Watteville was a man of wide culture and great force of character, charitable and self-sacrificing almost to a fault, and the outspoken foe of quackery and pretence of every description. D. F.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. W. F. Hillebrand, chief chemist of the U.S. Bureau of Standards, who was distinguished for his work on rock and mineral analysis, on February 7, aged seventy-one.

Prof. A. von Wassermann, emeritus professor of experimental therapy and immunology in the University of Berlin and director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Experimental Therapy in Berlin-Dahlem, on March 16, aged fifty-nine.

### Current Topics and Events.

ELSEWHERE in this issue is an article by Prof. Raymond Dart dealing with certain evidence which, on his view, reveals a long history of cultural contact between South Africa and the outside world from an early date. It is scarcely necessary to emphasise the importance of Prof. Dart's views in relation to the "diffusionist" theories which have been put forward by Prof. Elliot Smith and his colleagues. Perhaps the most striking piece of evidence with which Prof. Dart deals is the parallel drawn between the head-dress and clothing of certain figures in the Bushmen paintings of the Kei River Valley and of figures in the art of Babylonia and Western Asia. Bushmen paintings are thought by some, for good reason, to be relatively modern; the evidence of the incrustation of which Prof. Dart speaks is of little value without further information as to its character and rate of deposit. If the identification of the Babylonian cap were accepted, it would suggest the eighth century B.C. as a probable date, but

without a strong corroborative evidence the identification is precarious, especially as this type of cap is of extreme rarity in Babylonian art. Prof. Dart is on surer ground when he points to the problem presented by the extensive traces of early mining activity in Rhodesia. It may be that the researches of the Committee of the British Association which is investigating the composition of early bronzes may point to South Africa as one of the possible sources of supply and thus afford some clue to the date of some of these workings. It is, however, beyond question that the discovery by Dr. Randall-MacIver in the ruined structures of Rhodesia of Nankin china which could not be dated at the earliest much before the fourteenth century, is a great stumbling-block in the way of those who seek to prove an early date for the Zimbabwe culture.

WITH the past two or three weeks reports have reached Great Britain of a new experiment carried