

I have heard many admirable lecturers, but never another who was quite his equal in the affluence of his ready knowledge, in his power of apt illustration, in his ability to help us visualise what he described, in his command of pure English speech. At times, but not often, he lit up his subject by the summer-lightning of his humour. He was an expert draughtsman and turned his skill to account constantly on the black-board. It was interesting to watch him draw. He used coloured chalks, shading his drawing in parts with his finger and giving them a quality which made them not only instructive but easy to remember. I had expected that there would have been, on occasion, some reference to the current controversies with which Prof. Huxley was identified, but nothing of the kind happened, and the ultimate result of his words and influence, far from unsettling my beliefs, was to leave with me a new and delightful sense of the greater wonder, wisdom, power, and beauty of Creation by evolution than by an act sudden and complete.

After the lecture we passed on into the adjoining laboratory, where each one of us had his assigned table fitted with its microscope and other apparatus and instruments required. On our table each day a specimen of the subject dealt with in the lecture was placed, awaiting our study and dissection. The supply of specimens was ample and well chosen, like all else of the well-considered and generous equipment of the

laboratory. On the walls were many beautiful coloured diagrams, the work of Mr. G. B. Howes, who later succeeded Prof. Huxley as professor of biology. A small working museum was close by, which contained elaborate dissections preserved in spirit, and models of various organisms in successive stages of their development. Our demonstrator was no less a person than Mr. T. J. Parker, afterwards professor of biology at Otago, and a writer of authoritative books. Occasionally Prof. Huxley himself paid us a welcome visit and, glass in eye, examined and commented upon what we were doing. Even the laboratory "man" was an expert anatomist. He once set up for me the disarticulated skull of a cod-fish, and did the difficult task so well that the skull found a place in the Museum of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Smithfield.

When, like Marcus Aurelius, in the evening of my life I look back upon past years and count up the names and benefactions of those to whom I owe so much, I find myself dwelling with especial gratitude upon the name of Thomas Henry Huxley, what he was and what he did; for from him I learned, so far as I was capable of learning, not only the principles of biology, and of the scientific method, but also, from his example, such high qualities as the habit of observation, accurate and intense, of patience and thoroughness in all we undertook, and—I would add—of courtesy to strangers.

### The Huxley Memorial Lecture and Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

IT is especially incumbent upon anthropologists to preserve the memory of Huxley; for he did more than any other scientific thinker of the nineteenth century to remove misconceptions as to the aim of the science and to combat the prejudice with which it was regarded in the early days of its development. The Royal Anthropological Institute, however, is peculiarly indebted to him, for he was in a sense its founder. It was largely due to his tact and powers of conciliation when, as president of the Ethnological Society, he was carrying on negotiations with representatives of the Anthropological Society, that the differences of the two societies were composed, and an amalgamation followed which led to the foundation of the Institute in 1870.

At Huxley's death in 1895 it was the desire of the Council of the Anthropological Institute that Huxley's great services to anthropology should be specially recognised. A chair of anthropology had just been founded in the University of Oxford, to which E. B. Tylor had been appointed. It was felt that a Huxley professorship at one of the other universities would most appropriately perpetuate the memory of this side of his work. The suggestion was submitted to the Huxley Memorial Committee and received the support of Sir W. H. Flower; but it was not adopted. It was thereupon decided by the Council to supplement the objects selected by the Committee from among the many suggestions submitted to them, by the institution of a memorial lecture to be delivered

annually by a distinguished anthropologist, to whom a Huxley Memorial Medal should be awarded. By an agreement with the Memorial Committee, permission was granted for the use for this purpose of the die of the obverse of the Huxley Memorial Medal of the Royal College of Science which bears the portrait of Huxley.

The Huxley Memorial Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute has come to be regarded as the highest award in Great Britain open to an anthropologist. The first award, appropriately enough, was to Lord Avebury, long Huxley's intimate friend, who delivered the first Huxley Memorial Lecture on November 13, 1900, taking as his subject, "Huxley, the Man and his Work" (see NATURE, vol. 63, pp. 92 and 116). The medal has since been awarded to a succession of distinguished anthropologists, both British and foreign, whose memorial lectures, while dealing with their subjects on broad lines in accordance with the terms of the foundation, have been, as a rule, at the same time of some considerable importance as contributions to anthropological science. Among those whose names appear in the list of medallists may be mentioned: Sir Francis Galton, Prof. D. J. Cunningham, Sir Edward Tylor, Dr. J. Beddoe, Sir Flinders Petrie, Sir W. Boyd Dawkins, Sir James Frazer, Sir Arthur Keith, Dr. W. Z. Ripley, Dr. J. Deniker, Dr. F. von Luschan, Dr. Gustav Retzius, Dr. E. Cartailhac, Prof. M. Boule, Dr. E. S. Hartland, Dr. A. C. Haddon, Prof. W. J. Sollas, and Mr. Henry Balfour.