

## PROF. E. H. RENNIE.

DR. E. H. RENNIE, whose death in South Australia was recently announced, was for more than forty years professor of chemistry in the University of Adelaide. Born on Aug. 19, 1852, he was the son of E. A. Rennie, Auditor-General of New South Wales, and grandson of James Rennie, who was professor of zoology at King's College, London, 1830-1834. His school days were spent in Sydney, and he graduated at the University of Sydney in 1870. For a few years he taught in the Sydney and Brisbane Grammar Schools, and in 1877 came to London to study chemistry. He obtained his doctor's degree in the University of London in 1881. While in London he was assistant for two years to Dr. C. R. Alder Wright in the Chemical Department of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and also taught occasionally in the Royal College of Science. On his return to Australia he found employment in the Government Analyst's Department in Sydney. In 1885 he was appointed Angus professor of chemistry in the University of Adelaide, in which capacity he rendered fine service.

Rennie's natural temperament and his upbringing gave him a strict view of his obligations, and he shrank from no labour that would enable him to fulfil them. It must be added that if he expected much from himself, he also expected that his students would do their full share. But his kindness and sympathy tempered his sense of what was to be demanded from those whom he taught, and he was liked even as much as he was respected. His thorough knowledge of his subject and his sound training in the laboratory, with his capacity for clear expression and his wide outlook, made him an excellent teacher. Outside his own department he was devoted to the general work of the University, and he took a large share in the direction of its rapidly growing activities. He played a leading part in the institution of technical education in Adelaide, and was a warm supporter of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. He also found time to do some research work, principally on the chemistry of Australian products.

Rennie was thoroughly happy when he was able to get away from his work to his boat and his fishing. His enjoyment on all such occasions was only matched by his disreputable appearance: many stories were told of his adventures by those who were invited to accompany him on his cheerful expeditions.

It was fortunate for the young University of Adelaide that its staff should include from early times and for so long a professor of such ability, integrity, good judgment, and tact. He set a fine standard at the moment when naturally it was most valuable; he was trusted by every one inside the University and out; and he helped materially to establish the University of Adelaide in a strong position and to build up its present good reputation.

## MAJOR J. R. ERSKINE MURRAY.

MAJOR MURRAY was born in Edinburgh in 1868. At the University of Glasgow he studied under Lord Kelvin, and during the final years of his six years' course he did useful research work. He then entered Trinity College, Cambridge, as a research student. After being an assistant professor for two years at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, he was appointed an experimental assistant to Marconi. His interests now became centred in radio work. He acted as a demonstrator at University College, Nottingham, and as lecturer to the George Coats Technical College at Paisley. In 1907 he started consulting work in radio-telegraphy and gave lectures on it to Faraday House, London, and other colleges. In 1913 he became a partner in the firm of Messrs. Clarke, Forde, Taylor, and Erskine Murray, consulting engineers.

During the War Dr. Erskine Murray served with the Royal Air Force, being in charge of the radio instruments. He then became Experimental Engineer at H.M. Signal School, Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth.

Dr. Erskine Murray contributed several papers to various societies. Shortly after the War he gave to the Institution of Electrical Engineers a practical demonstration of communication by radio-telephony with an aeroplane in flight over London. His best-known book is a handbook on "Wireless Telegraphy," first published in 1907, which has gone through several editions, each edition having to be subjected to a thorough revision owing to the rapid progress of the art. He translated Ruhmer's "Wireless Telephony," to which he contributed a useful appendix. He also wrote a small but useful treatise on "Wireless Telephones and how they Work."

As an experimenter Erskine Murray's ability was of a high order. He took great pains in preparing experiments for his lectures, although he often used the very simplest apparatus. He had the gift of being able to communicate some of his enthusiasm to his students. His death after a very short illness has come as a great blow to his many friends.

## WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. H. B. Goodwin, formerly examiner in nautical astronomy at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and the author of various works on this subject, on Feb. 24, aged seventy-nine years.

Mr. F. B. Guthrie, chemist in the Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, for some thirty years, and author of papers in Thorpe's "Dictionary of Applied Chemistry" and technical periodicals, on Feb. 7, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. Leopold Spiegel, extra-ordinary professor of the University of Berlin, who died suddenly on Jan. 3 at Charlottenburg in his sixty-second year. Prof. Spiegel, whose numerous investigations were chiefly upon alkaloids, was the discoverer of the drug yohimbin. He was also the author of several books on pharmacology, drugs, poisons, etc. For many years he was a member of the editorial board of the *Chemische Centralblatt*.