

## Obituary.

DR. W. COLLINGRIDGE.

DR. WILLIAM COLLINGRIDGE, who died on April 29 at seventy-three years of age, went up to Cambridge as a young man, and while there his medical studies were interrupted by the circumstance that he volunteered surgical services to the Serbian Forces during the Turko-Serbian War. On his return to England he resumed his studies at the University and graduated in medicine. After two years of private practice he was appointed (1880) Medical Officer of Health of the Port of London, and during his twenty years' tenure of this post he contributed materially to the advances made in port sanitary work. The period was an eventful one; for two continental epidemics of cholera seriously threatened Great Britain, and the measures he devised and conducted were of great assistance in securing the immunity from infection which London, and the country generally, enjoyed. In no small measure are we indebted to Collingridge for the comparative composure with which we should face such risks at the present day.

Collingridge's special knowledge and experience led him to become a great opponent of the old practice of 'quarantine'; and this was the subject which he discussed, most ably, in his Milroy Lectures to the Royal College of Physicians (1897). He maintained that no attempt should be made to enforce quarantine in a commercial country, now that other more satisfactory measures of safety were available; and he gave opinions supported by facts that such measures had certainly been evolved. Quarantine was expensive; it often failed, and thus gave a false sense of security; and it involved serious danger to those detained on the ships. Sanitation, the medical inspection of passengers and crew at some suitable mooring station, the hospital isolation of infected persons and the temporary detention of suspects, constituted a scheme which presented many advantages. These views have now met with a very wide acceptance. It was also during these years that he became a warm advocate of improved sanitary conditions in the mercantile marine; and he was a pioneer in securing such improvements, although the existing conditions still leave much to be desired.

In 1901, Collingridge was appointed Medical Officer of Health for the City of London—a post which he retained until 1913. It was inevitable that in this sphere of work also he would leave a deep impress of progress in measures to promote the public health. He recognised the danger from oysters bred in waters polluted with human sewage, and his persistent advocacy of the adoption of protective measures led to useful progress towards safety. He extended these operations to what he styled "the poor man's oyster"—the cockle—to the consumption of which he attributed, with good cause, much preventable illness. He always impressed the public health need for cleaner milk and did much to secure this in the City of London.

After his retirement from public health official work, Collingridge still remained deeply interested

in public health matters. Throughout the War he was in charge of Auxiliary Military Hospital No. 112 in Kent. He maintained to the end his connexion with the Royal Sanitary Institute, of which he had been a member of Council and with which he was connected for nearly fifty years.

PROF. D. A. GILCHRIST.

By the sudden death of Prof. Douglas Alston Gilchrist, professor of agriculture, University of Durham, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on April 4, agricultural education and the agricultural industry of Great Britain have suffered a great loss. Prof. Gilchrist was the son of a west of Scotland farmer, and after leaving school, spent twelve years in practical farming, in which period he secured a thorough knowledge of the practical work and problems of farming. Afterwards he commenced to attend agricultural and science classes at the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College, and later made his way to Edinburgh, where he graduated B.Sc. (in agriculture) in 1889. In addition he obtained the senior certificate of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the diploma in agriculture of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. In 1903 he was granted, by vote of Convocation, the degree of master of science in the University of Durham.

Bangor (North Wales), Reading (south of England), and Newcastle-on-Tyne were the three centres of Prof. Gilchrist's life work. He also visited France, Holland, Italy, Germany, and Canada, with the object of knowing something of agricultural education, research, and the practice of agriculture in these countries. In 1902 he was appointed to the chair of agriculture at Armstrong College and scientific director of the Northumberland County Experimental Station at Cockle Park. The abundant labours of the past twenty-five years are known and appreciated by a vast number of agriculturists, not only in Great Britain, but also all over the world. He was best known for his research in connexion with grass and clover seeds mixtures, and the improvement of permanent grassland by means of economic dressings of phosphatic manures.

When Prof. Gilchrist came to Newcastle there were six academic members on the staff of the Agricultural Department of Armstrong College. There are now sixteen such members, six of whom are advisers, the College being the northern provincial centre of higher agricultural education of the Ministry of Agriculture. By his writings and lectures delivered in various parts of the country Prof. Gilchrist was well known all over England. The experiments and demonstrations he organised at Cockle Park have had a marked effect upon farming in the north of England as well as in other parts of the country. He was much beloved by his colleagues on the staff of the Agricultural Department and his many students.