

The result was a fine success. Volume after volume was translated into Braille; text-books on geometry, algebra, conic sections, trigonometry, astronomy, geology, the foundations of mathematics, metaphysics, physiology, sound, music, and mechanics—a list that is not complete—were published by the help of the fund. Every symbol on every page of every volume was stippled out by Taylor's own hand, with a cheerfulness and a patience that were amazing. His work is a real contribution to the life of the blind. Financial aid for the work, thus initiated, has been placed on a permanent basis; for his friends gathered funds which, under the name of the Embossed Scientific Books Fund, have been accepted as a trust administration by the Royal Society.

This bond of communication with the world that lives by sight gave Taylor new interests. He remained a member of the council of his college, under the new statutes, being re-elected time after time. He was made a university member of the borough council of Cambridge, served as mayor in 1900-1, and for some subsequent years was chairman of the finance committee of that council. Also he was nominated a borough magistrate, and discharged the duties with characteristic regularity and fairness.

In later years, the burden of age told; and, for nearly two years, Taylor had been practically confined to his house. Unmarried, he made a home for his mother—who, in her nineties, chaffed him when he was mayor—and for his sister who survives him. At that house, The Yews, set in the college backs, he died on Sunday, Oct. 16th last; and on the succeeding Wednesday, after a funeral service in the College Chapel, he was interred in the Huntingdon Road Cemetery.

Taylor's record, from 1894 onwards, is one of rare patience: of serene courage: and of unflinching cheerfulness under calamity, without a word of complaint. He leaves behind him the memory of a man who, for over thirty years, fought his

One fight more,
The best and the last.

A. R. F.¹

DR. B. DAYDON JACKSON.

A LONG life of useful work ^{has} closed by the death in Westminster Hospital, on Oct. 12, as the result of a street accident, of Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, who since 1880 had been actively associated with the conduct of the Linnean Society.

Born on April 3, 1846, in Stockwell, then near London, Jackson was educated in private schools. Though he seems to have had no special training, he was much interested in natural history; he was one of the early members of the Quekett Microscopical Club, and in 1868 was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society. His interest in our British flora brought him into touch with the botanists at the British Museum and Kew, and his special

aptitude for bibliographical work was soon apparent. In 1876 he edited, with the addition of notes and references and a life of the author, "A Catalogue of Plants cultivated in the Garden of John Gerard, in the Years 1596-1599"; and in the following year a similar reprint and edition of William Turner's "Libellus de re herbaria novus," originally published in 1538. In 1881 the Index Society published his "Guide to the Literature of Botany"—a classified selection of botanical works, which, though nearly fifty years old, it is still worth while to consult. This was followed in 1882 by "Vegetable Technology," a contribution towards a bibliography of economic botany, also published by the Index Society. Meanwhile, in 1880, Jackson had been elected to the botanical secretaryship of the Linnean Society, for which he worked devotedly during the rest of his life, for twenty-two years (1880-1902) as botanical secretary, and then as chief of the permanent staff, with the style of general secretary, until last year, when he retired from active participation in the conduct of the Society, though his services were retained as curator of the Linnean collections. Jackson's work for and association with the Linnean Society is so well known as to need no comment here. Successive generations of botanists and zoologists will gratefully remember the ready help and advice which was always at their service at the Society's rooms in Burlington House. A permanent expression of their feeling was the presentation of Dr. Jackson's portrait to the Society on the occasion of his resignation of the secretaryship at the anniversary meeting in 1926.

Jackson's most important literary work was the "Index Kewensis"—an enumeration of the genera and species of flowering plants from the time of Linnæus to 1885, the expense for the compilation of which was contributed by Charles Darwin. The work of compilation was begun in February 1882 and the final part was published in 1895. Of the first supplement, bringing the Index up to 1895, Dr. Jackson and Dr. T. Durand, of Brussels, were the authors.

Another invaluable book of reference was the "Glossary of Botanic Terms with their Derivation and Accent," which he issued in 1900; subsequent revised editions appeared in 1905 and 1916.

The Linnean Society is the home not only of the herbarium but also of the library, manuscripts, etc., of Linnæus; an intimate knowledge of these brought Dr. Jackson into touch with workers, especially taxonomists, at home and abroad. His various publications on the Linnean collections, and his recent English edition of Prof. Fries's "Life of Linnæus," may be mentioned. So highly was this aspect of his work appreciated in Sweden that at the Linnean bicentenary celebrations at Upsala in 1907 he received special honour, including a knighthood (R.N.O.), and the Hon. Ph.D. and A.M. of the University. His last important work was the recently issued catalogue of the Society's library.

The remarkable vigour of Jackson's constitution—he had never missed a meeting of the council during his forty-seven years' continuous service,

¹ Some passages in the foregoing are taken from the writer's obituary notice which appeared in the *Times*, Oct. 17.

and only one general meeting—gave hope that he would for some years more be able to fulfil the light duties assigned to him as curator of the Linnean collections. It has been ordered otherwise and he has fallen, literally almost, at his post.

A. B. R.

PROF. A. MAIR.

PROF. ALEXANDER MAIR, whose death occurred on Oct. 7 at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven years, had occupied the chair of philosophy at the University of Liverpool since 1910. Although he made no direct contribution to purely scientific research, he was always keenly interested in recent developments of scientific theory, and extremely appreciative of their wider philosophic implications. He was the author of the articles on "Hallucination" and "Belief" in "The Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics," of "Philosophy and Reality" (published 1911), and of "Immanence and Transcendence," and "The Idea of Transcendent Deity," in recent volumes of the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*.

Prof. Mair was born in Glasgow, and pursued his studies at Edinburgh, the Sorbonne, and Marburg. He exercised a marked influence both within the University and in connexion with many extra-mural educational institutions, being also the first president of the recently founded Liverpool Psychological Society and active in promoting the Liverpool Branch of the British Institute of Philosophical Studies; while his philosophy seminar was attended by a growing number of post-graduate students. His intellectual ability, combined with his generous disposition and patent sincerity, gained for him a wide sphere of appreciation.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, author of "Prehistoric Man and Beast," "Extinct Monsters," and other popular books on scientific topics, on Oct. 30, aged seventy-two years.

Dr. J. R. Leeson, mayor of Twickenham and author of "Lister as I knew him," who also interested himself in several aspects of natural science, on Oct. 23, aged seventy-three years.

News and Views.

SIR ALFRED MOND'S address on the chemical industry, read by Dr. F. A. Beach before the Central Economic League on Oct. 20, ought to receive wide publicity, for it tells the plain man in plain terms how that industry, particularly in Great Britain, stands in relation to his own daily needs, his protection, his future requirements, and, in fact, his very life. Such a pronouncement, coming as it does from the chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., the great merger of Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd., Nobel Industries, Ltd., British Dyes, and the United Alkali Co., Ltd., with a total of seventy-five constituent and associated companies, cannot fail to merit the closest attention of economists and of all those interested in the different aspects of the social welfare and development of the race. An analysis of the ordinary doings of the ordinary man throughout the twenty-four hours has shown that all the objects with which he deals, and most of the food he eats, have at some time or other come within the province of chemical industry. Chemicals, in fact, form the foundation of the world's industries, and hence are to be found at the very root of Imperial security and prosperity. It is of course not only the chemist who carries the technical responsibility in these concerns; as Sir Alfred Mond remarked, good engineering can also turn an unprofitable chemical process into a profitable one, notwithstanding that the same chemical reaction has been used under comparable conditions in each case. The new fertiliser process at Billingham, for example, depends for its success on the application of extremely high gas pressures. The development of an industrial technique of high pressures not only leads to commercial success in one branch of the industry, but also opens up new avenues of research and application of immeasurable national and Imperial significance.

PROBLEMS relating to agriculture, to the ultimate dependence of the food supply on the production of

fertilisers from the atmosphere, to the new realisation of the value of systematically fertilised grassland, to the possibility of the synthetic production of vitamins, were all brought under review, and attention was directed to what may be termed the 'fuel problem.' Sir Alfred Mond views with equanimity even an exhaustion of the world's timber supplies, believing that, if necessary, chemical industry would undoubtedly come to the rescue with a substitute. More remarkable still is the movement by centralised industry in repairing the deficiencies of that local chemical works which each one of us possesses in his own body. Synthetic insulin, for example, as effective in its action as its natural counterpart, is at least a vision of the early future. In speaking of industrial peace, Sir Alfred Mond referred to the fortunate happy and friendly past of the chemical industry, and outlined the plans which had been laid within the organisation of which he is chairman, with the view of promoting personal contact, improved status, increased security, co-partnership in profits, and co-operation. In the concluding words of the address: "The achievement of industrial peace cannot be hastened merely by the desires of enthusiastic amateurs or disillusioned politicians. It can be secured only by the competence and good will of those in whose hands are placed the responsibility for industrial organisations, whether on the side of direction or on the side of labour. There is a new spirit and a new science in the management of chemical industry. That new spirit and new science is the broad avenue to industrial prosperity and industrial peace."

MR. J. E. WILLIAMS, whose interesting book, "In Search of Reality," was reviewed in NATURE of June 5, 1926, writes with reference to the leading article, "Science and Philosophy," which appeared on Oct. 22, to protest against any mechanistic explanation of