

Obituary.

DR. H. J. B. FRY.

DR. H. J. B. FRY died on May 5, at the early age of forty-four years, from an acute infection acquired at a post-mortem examination in the course of his work at the Cancer Hospital, London, where he had held the post of pathologist since 1922. In the investigation of cancer, and especially in the organisation of this work by the British Empire Cancer Campaign, he had found a field for which he was, both by nature and experience, peculiarly well fitted. He was educated at Charterhouse, Magdalen College, Oxford, and St. Thomas's Hospital. His earlier investigations, both before and during the War, dealt with a wide range of biological and clinical subjects: he published papers on the coagulation of the blood in fishes and tunicates, the nervous control of the cephalopod heart, the histology of the pituitary gland in diabetes, and the use of immunised blood donors in the treatment of pyogenic infections. He was thus well acquainted with the complexities and pitfalls of research, both in the laboratory and in the wards, and he had exactly that combination of enthusiasm, experience, and caution which is most needed in cancer research. Moreover, at his home in Welwyn Garden City he was a magistrate and a councillor, and in these positions, and in the difficult work of a committee for placing convicted persons on probation, he had gained a good knowledge of the conduct of business.

As secretary of the Investigation Committee of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, it fell to Dr. Fry's lot to receive those abundant suggestions, of all possible degrees of rationality, which are offered to the Campaign for the investigation and treatment of cancer. He served the *Cancer Review*, which is published by the Campaign and abstracts the literature relating to cancer, from its beginning as sectional editor, and later as chairman of the editorial committee, and the volumes of this journal, of which the fifth is now being issued, contain a mass of good work by him. He took endless trouble over his abstracts, and they are models of thoroughness.

In his own investigations Dr. Fry had attacked two of the most difficult problems, namely, the search for immune reactions which might possibly serve as some basis for the diagnosis, and for the treatment, of cancer. The time given to him was too short to allow of much progress in these immense tasks, and his published writings show a beginning only. His flocculation method for the diagnosis of cancer gave useful results within certain limits, and he was constantly testing possible improvements in the technique. Throughout this research he worked with material from human sources, under clinical conditions, and his work could be under no reproach that it applied only to the artificial conditions of the laboratory.

In his recreations Dr. Fry was a fine athlete, a cricketer, tennis-player, and rider; and a lover of literature with an especial devotion to Hardy's

"Dynasts" and Gilbert Murray's translations of Greek drama. He was not a man who spoke of his ambitions, but anyone who knew him well will have no doubt that these lay in the direction of manifold and increasing service to human welfare.

DR. GUSTAF EKMAN.

WE regret to record the death, at the age of seventy-seven years, of Dr. Fredrik Gustaf Ekman. From the *Göteborgs Morgenpost* of Feb. 27, we learn the following details of his life. Ekman was born at Stockholm in 1852, and when he was nine years old, his family moved to Goteborg, where his father and brother obtained posts in the Carnegie sugar-refinery. As a student at the technical high school of Göteborg and Chalmers technical institute, and afterwards at Wiesbaden and Uppsala, Gustaf Ekman specialised in scientific technology with the view of acquiring full knowledge of the technique and the chemico-scientific basis of sugar-refining. On his return to Göteborg in 1880 he obtained the post of technical director in Carnegie's refinery, and for twenty years as technical director and then as one of its managing directors Ekman rendered considerable service to the development of the Swedish sugar manufacture.

In his student days in Uppsala Ekman showed leanings towards natural science, and marine research in particular appealed to him. Some preliminary marine investigations were begun in 1876 in collaboration with Prof. A. W. Cronander, professor of chemistry, and in the following year the State fitted out and financed a Baltic expedition in which Ekman participated. Next year he received from the local authority in Bohuslän a request to investigate the sea off the coast of Bohuslän from the point of view of the herring fishery, and his pioneer discoveries awakened widespread interest in marine biological and fisheries research. Indeed, his name will always be associated with that of his friend Prof. Otto Pettersson in the annals of Swedish hydrographic work. Since 1904 he was associated, first as expert and later as delegate, with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Joseph L. Markley, professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of Michigan, known for work on Bessel functions and the theory of functions, on April 20, aged seventy years.

Dr. William H. Nichols, past president of the American Chemical Society, known for his work on the metallurgy of copper and in industrial chemistry, on Feb. 1, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. Katsusaburo Yamagiwa, emeritus professor of pathology and pathological anatomy at the Tokyo Imperial University, member of the Japanese Imperial Academy, who carried out important investigations on cancer, showing in 1915 that it could be produced by prolonged application of coal-tar to the skin, on Mar. 2, aged sixty-six years.