

was appointed Rector of the University of Paris, whence he retired some years after on account of ill-health. On several occasions Paul Appell received the highest distinctions from French and foreign universities; and in 1924 Oxford conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

As a teacher, Paul Appell knew how to win the affection of his students by his patience, his kindness, his readiness to discuss difficulties, and his extraordinary ability in finding illuminating explanations for the most complicated questions he had to deal with. Those who were privileged to know him more intimately were not long in discovering his high moral virtues and also the secret sorrow of his heart. For Paul Appell was born in Strasbourg in 1855; and as a result of the Treaty of Frankfurt, sixteen years later, he was prompted to abandon his "petite patrie" for the sake of his "grande patrie, la France", to the restoration of which he was determined to devote his strength and energy. He tells his poignant story in his charming book, "Souvenirs d'un Alsacien", which makes his biographers' task an easy and pleasant one, and shows in all their simplicity and greatness his patriotic feelings. But more qualified pens will one day describe what his country and science owe to Paul Appell. These few inadequate notes are only meant as a respectful homage to the memory of a great man who was revered and admired by all who knew him.

THOMAS GREENWOOD.

#### PROF. J. H. TEACHER.

By the premature death on Nov. 21, at the age of sixty-one years, of Prof. John Hammond Teacher, the School of Medicine of Glasgow has lost a valuable member of its personnel. Educated at the Glasgow Academy and the University of Glasgow, he graduated in arts in 1888 and in medicine with 'High Commendation' in 1893. He took the higher degree ten years later and was awarded honours and a gold medal for his thesis.

It is probably true to say that of his teachers Dr. Joseph Coats was the most influential in determining Dr. Teacher's bent. From the first his interests centred in the problems of pathology. After serving as house surgeon and for a time as medical officer of the Rio Tinto Company in Spain, where he had the opportunity of observing the life-history of the malaria organism, he returned to undertake an important duty for his University. The celebrated Anatomical and Pathological Collection of William Hunter had long stood in need of reconditioning and rearranging. Dr. Teacher was appointed to do this, and after some years of work, produced a valuable two-volume catalogue of the collection, with descriptions and annotations which testify to the care and insight with which he had carried through the work. The volumes are prefaced by an interesting and scholarly introduction on William Hunter and his school in relation to the collection.

Dr. Teacher next spent some years as assistant  
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to the professor of physiology, being chiefly engaged in the histological work. Here he was able to perfect his microscopic technique, which was of a high order. About this time he entered upon a study of the remarkable disease known as chorionepithelioma, and to further this he travelled abroad to make acquaintance with all the early human embryos then known. Presented as a thesis, this memoir received recognition from his University, and was acknowledged an important contribution to the subject. In 1904 he joined the staff of Prof. Muir, and in view of his special proficiency and interest in microscopic work he was nominated by him for the lectureship in pathological histology. In 1909 he was appointed pathologist to Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and this appointment was followed in 1911 by his election to the St. Mungo (Notman) chair of pathology instituted in 1910. As St. Mungo professor he was *ex-officio* pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, and his professorship was inaugurated by the opening of the excellent new Pathological Institute, for the planning and organisation of which he was largely responsible.

Teacher's work on chorionepithelioma gave him a special interest in the history of the chorion in early development, and this was greatly enhanced by his discovery in 1907 of a very young embryo, the youngest hitherto known, in a minute piece of decidua sent to him for examination. The specimen was described in a memoir published in 1908 in conjunction with the writer of this notice. In 1923 he discovered another young embryo at an autopsy, and published in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Empire* (1924) a very able and beautifully illustrated memoir on the history of the trophoblast and on the implantation of the blastocyst in the human subject. The contributions he made in these two memoirs to the problems connected with the earliest phases of human development have left his name permanently and honourably inscribed in the literature of the subject.

Apart from the reputation he won in this field, Teacher acquired merit for the able manner in which he conducted his routine duties as pathologist to the Royal Infirmary. To the literature of pathology he from time to time contributed papers (too many to be enumerated in this short notice), which were invariably characterised by accurate observation and careful presentation. His special interest, determined by the studies already referred to, was in gynaecological pathology, and he had accumulated a large amount of material for a book on the subject. It is a great misfortune that he was not granted time to carry this work to completion.

T. H. B.

#### CAPT. OTTO SVERDRUP.

OTTO SVERDRUP's name, like those of his fellow-countrymen, Nansen and Amundsen, ranks high in the story of polar exploration. In a long course of arctic voyages, he had become the most experienced ice-master of his time, and his knowledge was sought by many expeditions.

Sverdrup, who died in Norway on Nov. 26, was