

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

born on Oct. 31, 1855, on a farm in Helgeland, Norway. He went to sea at the age of seventeen and sailed for many years in American and Norwegian ships, besides having experience in fishing boats. For some years he had left the sea, when in 1888 he was chosen by Nansen for his memorable expedition across the ice-sheet of Greenland. The party reached the west coast after their crossing, and then Sverdrup and Nansen made a daring journey in a crazy and scarcely seaworthy boat to Godthaab to bring help to the other men.

In 1893 Sverdrup was chosen by Nansen to command the *Fram* in her drift across the Arctic Ocean. When Nansen left the ship in lat. 84° N. with Johansen as a companion in an attempt to reach the north pole, Sverdrup took over command of the expedition, and eventually extricated the ship from the pack-ice and brought her safely to Norway after a three years' drift. The highest latitude reached by the *Fram* was lat. 85° 57' N., which is still the northern record of any vessel.

In 1898 Sverdrup returned to the arctic with the *Fram* in an attempt to explore the north of Greenland. Ice in Robeson Channel barred the way, and Sverdrup transferred his attention to Ellesmere Island and the unknown regions lying to the west. During the first year, from a base at Cape Sabine he explored much of Ellesmere Island, and in the two years following he charted much new land to the west and threw light on the nature of that part of the arctic. The islands he discovered are known collectively as the Sverdrup Islands. The *Fram* returned safely to Europe in 1902.

Sverdrup's next important arctic voyage was in 1914, when he was charged by the government of Russia with the task of searching for the lost Russian explorers, Brussilov, who had sailed in *Ste. Anna* in 1912, and Russanov, who sailed the same year for the Kara Sea. Sverdrup in the *Eclipse* passed through the Kara Sea, reached the Yenisei mouth, and eventually wintered in lat. 76° N., long. 92° E. In August 1915 the ship was liberated from the ice and resumed the search, which, however, proved fruitless. This expedition made several discoveries, but most of the detailed records were sent to Russia and have never been published. In 1920 Sverdrup again took an expedition to the Kara Sea, to bring help to a Russian ice-breaker imprisoned in the pack. He gave valuable advice in the rescue of the survivors of the *Italia* airship in 1928.

Sverdrup was a silent man and his great store of knowledge was not easy to reach. His chief book was "New Land" (London, 1904), and he wrote nothing on many of his expeditions. He was an honorary LL.D. of the University of St. Andrews.

R. N. R. B.

MR. JAMES EDGE-PARTINGTON.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. James Edge-Partington, which took place at Beaconsfield on Nov. 4, at the age of seventy-six years. Mr. Edge-Partington was an authority on the material culture of the Pacific, and at one time was the

owner of a very extensive collection of objects from the South Seas, which included many rarities. This was dispersed during his lifetime, part going by purchase and gift to the British Museum and part to the Auckland Museum. A second collection of books and prints relating to Australasia went to an Australian museum. Mr. Edge-Partington's contributions to scientific literature, which were numerous, were mostly descriptive, but they were characterised by extreme accuracy, critical acumen, and a common sense which was allied with a sound appreciation of the bearing of the analytical study of material culture on the problems of ethnology. His most important contribution to anthropological literature, however, was an ethnographic album of the Pacific in which tools, implements, personal ornaments, and other objects in European collections, especially his own and that of the British Museum, were reproduced by lithography from his own drawings. It was issued in three series, which appeared in 1890, 1895, and 1898 respectively. It is now extremely rare, very few copies remaining in private hands. Mr. Edge-Partington's interests were not confined to the Pacific; he was also a keen student and collector of objects illustrating the culture of the European peasantry, and had devoted much attention to the peasant industries of the Chiltern area in which he lived. For many years he was a valued voluntary worker in the ethnographical department of the British Museum, and a very active member of the council of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

PROF. WALTER HERZ.

DR. WALTER HERZ, professor of physical chemistry in the University of Breslau, died on Sept. 7, aged fifty-five years. From the *Chemiker-Zeitung* we learn the following particulars of his life. Herz was a native of Breslau and at the University of that city he studied under Ladenburg, who quickly recognised his ability both as an original worker and as a teacher. Under Ladenburg's direction, it was only natural that Herz should direct his attention first to organic chemistry, but after graduation his interests in other branches of the subject were awakened by F. W. Küster and R. Abegg. Under their influence he began to devote himself to investigations in physical chemistry, particularly to problems of solubility, chemical equilibria, partition coefficients, viscosity, and critical states. In 1903 Ladenburg appointed him first assistant in the Chemical Institute at the University of Breslau. In 1909 he was transferred to the Pharmaceutical Institute, but in 1919 he returned to the University as director of the department of physical chemistry in the Chemical Institute. Herz was the author of numerous volumes, the best known of which is his "Leitfaden der theoretischen Chemie". In conjunction with Abegg he compiled a "Chemisches Praktikum" and with Gadamer a work on chemical toxicology. He succeeded Ahrens in editing the *Sammlung chemischer und chemisch-technischer Vorträge*.