

Home Office Committee appointed to inquire into this disease.

Of greater theoretical importance was Leitch's demonstration of the carcinogenic action of arsenious acid, and the fact that this factor was not responsible for the carcinogenic action of tar. He also showed that in the production of tar cancer in mice, the essential damage was completed before the appearance of proliferative changes in the skin, although a relatively long latent period might elapse before definite tumour development supervened. This important observation has revolutionised our earlier attitude to the problems of compensation in occupational cancer.

Leitch's numerous publications are characterised by a careful and polished diction, enlivened from time to time by striking and appropriate phrases, which betrayed his literary and classical learning and training. He was an able and attractive speaker, and many of his addresses on formal and informal occasions were enlivened by a wealth of appropriate anecdote. He leaves a widow and four children, to whom will be extended the sympathy of his co-workers at home and abroad.

J. A. MURRAY.

MR. R. G. LUNNON.

ROBERT G. LUNNON, who died on Jan. 25 at the age of forty years, was widely known both for his scientific and for his humanitarian work. He was educated at Tottenham County School and University College, London, where he held the Neil Arnott Scholarship of the University of London, and after graduating was appointed to a lectureship in the department of applied mathematics. During the War he served in France with the Red Cross and later was engaged in relief work for refugees in Holland.

In 1919, Mr. Lunnon was appointed lecturer in physics at Armstrong College, Newcastle, where he remained to the time of his death. His work there gave full scope to his many abilities. In addition to his departmental duties, which he discharged with conspicuous success, he undertook a great deal

of work on behalf of the students, and had acted since 1926 as senior tutor in the Faculty of Science. His colleagues were also greatly indebted to him for his work in connexion with the Association of University Teachers, both as secretary and representative on the council. He attended the meetings of the British Association regularly, and served on the committee of Section A.

Mr. Lunnon's published papers relate to a variety of topics, the best known being a series on the motion of spheres in fluid media, which gave evidence of mathematical and experimental ability of a high order. Although extremely active in academic and scientific work, he yet found time for a great deal of social service in various forms. These are too numerous to detail; but the cause of international goodwill was perhaps the one nearest his heart, and he laboured to promote it with all the enthusiasm and energy that was in him. His students, his colleagues, and his many friends will always remember him with gratitude as one who had great gifts and used them to the full—but always on behalf of others.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Andrew Balfour, K.C.M.G., director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, on Jan. 30, aged fifty-seven years.

Dr. W. E. Johnson, Sidgwick lecturer in moral philosophy in the University of Cambridge, and author of a work on "Logic", three volumes of which out of the four contemplated have been published, on Jan. 14, aged seventy-two years.

Prof. Orazio Marucchi, professor of archæology at the University of Rome and director of the Vatican Egyptian Museum, on Jan. 21, aged seventy-seven years.

Dr. R. B. Moore, formerly chief chemist of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and recently professor of chemistry in Purdue University, who was known for his work on radioactivity, applied chemistry and metallurgy, aged sixty years.

Dr. J. Perrin Smith, emeritus professor of palæontology at Stanford University, with which he had been connected since 1892, on Jan. 1, aged sixty-six years.

News and Views.

THE causes of the present agricultural depression in Great Britain are reviewed by Mr. C. S. Orwin, director of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics at Oxford, in an article in the *Political Quarterly*, vol. 2, No. 1, entitled "The Agricultural Problem". Although the assertion that in previous years wages have been based entirely on the price of wheat is probably an over-statement, it is evident that at the present time wages are fixed with reference to a standard of living regardless of the condition of the industry, and the fact that the necessity for paying a statutory wage continues, while the guarantee for prices has been withdrawn, constitutes one of the farmer's chief complaints. From a comparison of the costs of production of such commodities as wheat, mutton, and milk for the years 1914, 1925, and 1930, it appears that for the two earlier years the corre-

sponding figures were almost identical, and even in 1930 the cost of production has only risen appreciably in the case of wheat. The problem is, therefore, mainly one for the arable farmer; but the obvious course of abandoning corn-growing in favour of the more profitable industries is no solution for the eastern districts, where climatic conditions are unsuitable for dairying or market gardening; and further, the transformation of these areas into sheep farms could only be done at a great sacrifice of employment and production.

THE solution of the present agricultural problem, Mr. Orwin thinks, lies in a readjustment of the principles underlying arable farming. In the first place, he questions the advisability of continuing mixed farming, which includes the production of both corn