

pseudo-globulin fraction of the serum proteins. He had previously made a comparative study of the antigenic relationships of the plague bacillus and the pseudo-tubercle bacillus and was able to confirm the close kinship of these bacteria, as judged by the results of precipitin and immunity tests.

In 1912, MacConkey published a remarkable paper which indicated a seasonal change in the potency of diphtheria toxin when produced in regular weekly batches. His curves certainly seem to show a significant increase of toxicity during the winter months as compared with the level attained in the summer. Moreover, he directed attention to the close correspondence of the toxin curve with that of the prevalence of diphtheria in London and elsewhere. These observations are unique, and the present writer is disposed to believe that they are related to variations in the health and susceptibility to infection of the stock of guinea-pigs from which the test animals were drawn.

During the years of the War, MacConkey put his energies without stint into the task of enlarging and organising his department to meet the increasing demands made upon it by the army authorities for tetanus antitoxin, antidysentery serum, and antimeningococcus serum. He took a keen interest in the prophylaxis and treatment of tetanus by means of antitoxin, and he published several papers on the subject; in some of them he reviewed the observations of workers in many countries, and in others he gave an account of experimental work carried out by himself and his colleagues. He served as a member of the War Office Committee for the investigation of tetanus. In his published articles he put forward a strong plea for devoting special attention to the early signs and symptoms of tetanus, on the ground that the antitoxin is likely to influence the disease only when administered as soon as the symptoms are recognisable. The limited response to his appeal and the scanty information which came to hand disappointed him, but it is probable that he had not sufficiently appreciated the difficulty of discriminating between the premonitory subjective symptoms of tetanus and those which were attributable to sepsis and to the nervous strain from which the patients were suffering.

MacConkey, as the writer has good reason to know, was essentially a man of a kindly disposition. His sense of duty was so strong that, during the trying years of the War, he suffered from the strain to an extent which weakened his resistance and laid the foundation of a cardiac disability from which he never really recovered. G. F. P.

MR. E. TORDAY.

THE death, at the age of fifty-six years, of Emil Torday, which occurred on May 9, at his London home, removes one of the most distinguished of African ethnologists. A Hungarian, his adventurous spirit led him to the heart of the Dark Continent some thirty years ago. He there acquired a great affection for its savage native in-

habitants, and by his personality inspired in them an equal affection for himself.

Deeply interested in native manners and customs, Torday made these his life's study. To this end his wonderful linguistic talents helped very considerably. He spoke seven European languages and eight of the tongues of Central Africa. His works on the ethnography of the Negro, written in collaboration with Capt. T. A. Joyce of the British Museum and published by the Belgian Government in French, "Les Bushongo" and "Peuplades de la forêt et Peuplades des prairies", are surely models to be followed by future students of native life. In lighter vein, but scarcely less informative to the general reader, is his "Causeries congolaises", published in Brussels in 1925. In English he published "On the Trail of the Bushongo" and "Camp and Tramp in African Wilds", besides contributing numerous articles and reviews on African ethnology to the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Man, and Africa*. Only just before his death he had completed his monumental volume on "African Races" for the series of works upon descriptive sociology founded by Herbert Spencer, which was reviewed in NATURE of May 2, p. 655.

Of Torday's personal courage a word must be said. Upon one occasion he stepped in between a party of defenceless children and the warriors of a hostile tribe who had their bows already drawn to annihilate the children of their national enemies. Torday, unarmed, stepped in between the warriors and their victims, and, by his utter disregard of personal safety, saved the lives of innocents and the commencement of an inter-tribal feud which would probably have lasted to this day.

The loss of Torday, could it be made known to them, would most certainly be regretted by many tribes in Central Africa. It will as certainly be regretted by scientific workers in Europe. One who was privileged to accompany him for two years upon his last great Central African journey mourns his loss not least of all.

M. W. HILTON-SIMPSON.

MR. TORDAY'S contribution to the science of African ethnology was twofold. His publications have already been mentioned; they constitute a record of the highest importance. But he was also distinguished as a practical field-worker; and the ethnographical collections from the Belgian Congo, all carefully documented, with which he enriched the British Museum between 1907 and 1910, are of outstanding excellence. Both in quantity and quality they are unrivalled among our African collections, and it is not too much to say that the study of them is essential for anyone who would understand the high level of refinement in decorative and textile arts of which the Bantu are capable. In performing this signal service to the nation, Torday has incidentally achieved a fitting memorial to himself and his labours, which will increase in value with the passage of time. He worked for some years in an unofficial capacity at the British