

works included books on poisoning, enteric fever, and elementary hygiene in India. He received the honorary degree of LL.D. from St. Andrews and Edinburgh, and that of D.C.L. from the University of Oxford.

R. R.

DR. R. C. MACFIE.

ON June 9, in a nursing home in London, Dr. Ronald Campbell Macfie passed quietly from amongst us with whom he had so quietly lived. He was not fond of the limelight, and was intimately known by few, by all of whom, however, he was greatly beloved.

An Aberdonian by birth, he was not in temperament true to type, for he was pre-eminently a man of feeling; yet it was also characteristic of him that he was never without some big problem to ponder over. He graduated in arts and in medicine in the University of Aberdeen, and continued his training in other schools at home and abroad. As locum-tenens at many places and consulting physician in health resorts, he saw a good deal of the world, and he had ever a keen appetite for beauty. With a very high ideal of health of body and health of mind, he lived an ascetic, highly strung life, often with a too strenuous struggle for existence, but, on the whole, rich in high joys and the delights of laborious days.

It was a great encouragement to Dr. Macfie when his poems brought him laureation from his Alma Mater, and he was almost pathetically pleased—two years ago—when he was asked to give the Thomson Lectures in the United Free Church College. These were published under the title "Science Re-discovers God", and they give noble expression to the main trend of his mind. He was spiritually minded, and was convinced that it is the business of science not merely to make the world intelligible, so that a religious interpretation may be more convincing, but to declare a theodicy. His scientific books dealt with heredity and evolution, with vitalism, with health, with the vital value of light, and most successfully of all, we think, with the romance of the body. They were characterised by sparkling lucidity, picturesque

phrasing, poetic flashes, and an idealistic setting. His poems, which were his strongest self-expressions, are marked by their combination of music and high thinking. Many of them are little essays in philosophy, and yet at the same time they are melodies.

Of Ronald Campbell Macfie the world did not show itself quite worthy, but he did his day's work cheerfully.

MR. HENRY JAMES WADDINGTON, who died at Bournemouth on June 28 at ninety-one years of age, was well known to microscopic workers both at home and abroad. Many of his preparations, especially those of prawns and crabs, as well as various protozoa, are exhibited in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. His wonderful manipulative skill at mounting the most delicate protozoa and insects in their natural condition was the admiration of all who came in contact with him. His knowledge of chemistry was an enormous help to him, and his successful preparation of realgar as a mounting medium of high refractive value, as well as his mounts of various diatoms in realgar, are known to many. Mr. Waddington was one of the founders of the Natural Science Society of Bournemouth, and was later presented with the gold medal of the society and elected honorary vice-president.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Francis R. Cross, who was reader in ophthalmology in the University of Bristol and formerly president of the Ophthalmological Society, on July 12, aged eighty-three years.

Prof. Harald Höfding, formerly professor of philosophy in the University of Copenhagen, known for his publications on philosophy and psychology, on July 2, aged eighty-eight years.

Sir Harry R. Reichel, emeritus rector of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, who was principal of the College for forty-three years and known for his work in education, on June 22, aged seventy-four years.

News and Views.

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, Minister of Transport, stated in the House of Commons, on July 24, that the Weir report on the electrification of the railways of Great Britain raises important issues of industrial policy and that the Government will consider its recommendations most carefully. In the opinion of some, an objection to the scheme is that, as the report indicates, the coal consumption will be reduced by 3.8 per cent, or nearly ten million tons a year. It is also true that part of the economy which will be gained will be secured by the reorganisation of the railway men. But it would be foolish to let these two facts prevent us from carrying out a great scheme of industrial improvement. In the making of our country industrially efficient it cannot be wrong to face the new problems and solve them in

the same spirit that we solved similar problems in the past. It would be foolish to be frightened because the report deals with big figures. It is significant that the manager of the L.N.E.R. signed the report. The Government is at present discussing the report with the railway companies. The Weir Committee estimated that a return of about 7 per cent could be secured upon the new capital (£261,000,000) involved in electrification. In the present condition of affairs this remuneration would doubtless be welcomed by the companies, but it is doubtful whether they could at present attract the necessary capital without State assistance. At the recent N.U.R. Conference, Mr. C. T. Cramp, the General Secretary of the Union, welcomed electrification on behalf of the employees. He takes