

Legge's outstanding personal characteristics were modesty and unyielding integrity. He was concerned with his work, not with credit that might come from it; and it is most satisfactory, therefore, that we can now recall with gratitude his extremely important contribution to the welfare of industrial workers in Britain and in other countries.

A. N.

PROF. OTTO FISCHER

WE regret to record the death on April 4, after a prolonged illness, of Prof. Otto Fischer, who was associated for many years with his more famous cousin, the late Emil Fischer. From the *Chemiker-Zeitung* we learn that Otto Fischer was born in 1852 at Euskirchen, near Cologne. On leaving school, he studied for a short time with Kekulé at Bonn before proceeding to Strassburg, where he began his researches on the synthesis of hydrocarbons under Adolph von Baeyer, and where Emil had already begun his career. After graduating in 1874, Otto proceeded to Charlottenburg to work with Liebermann, but two years later he rejoined von Baeyer, who had in the meantime been called to Munich. In Munich the cousins Fischer worked upon the preparation of organic hydrazines and upon the dyestuffs of the triphenylmethane group. In 1882, Emil was appointed to the chair at Erlangen, but his health broke down and, in 1884, Otto was sent to act as his substitute. In the following year, Emil accepted the chair at Würzburg, and Otto

was appointed to succeed him at Erlangen. This post he held until his retirement in 1925.

In conjunction with his assistants and students, Otto Fischer published a considerable number of papers on organic chemistry—his favourite field of research being dyestuffs. In conjunction with Dr. E. Hepp, of the Höchster Farbwerke, he investigated nitrosamines and nitroso-bases, the reactions of the iminazol-group, the safranines, indulines, and fluorindines. Later he worked upon the photosensitising dyestuffs of the cyanin group. He also investigated derivatives of pyridine, quinoline, and anthracene, and he discovered the drug kairine.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Fritz Drevermann, professor of palæontology in the University of Frankfort-on-Main, and editor of the *Paläontologischen Zeitschrift*, on March 16, aged fifty-seven years.

Dr. Carl Leo Mees, president emeritus of the Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana, who was twice vice-president of Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on April 20, aged seventy-eight years.

Dr. Roland Thaxter, emeritus professor of cryptogamic botany at Harvard University, and honorary curator of the Farlow Herbarium, who was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and foreign member of the Linnean Society of London, on April 22, aged 73 years.

News and Views

Sir Henry Wellcome, F.R.S.

AT a meeting of the Royal Society on May 26, Sir Henry Wellcome was elected a fellow of the Society under Statute 12, which provides for the recommendation by the Council for election of "persons, who . . . either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society". Sir Henry, who was knighted last January for his public services, has been a generous and frequent benefactor of scientific research. In 1899 he founded the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories in Khartoum, where the late Sir Andrew Balfour worked for many years; he established in England in 1913 his Bureau for Scientific Research and Historical Medical Museum, and in 1914 the Museum of Medical Science, including Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; in 1920 he founded the Wellcome Entomological Field Laboratory. Last year, Lord Moynihan laid the corner-stone of the Wellcome Research Institution, where the Historical Medical Museum and Museum of Medical Science will be brought together under one roof, and facilities provided for research in medical zoology, parasitology, entomology, tropical medicine, and hygiene—the corner-stone, as Lord Moynihan remarked, of a long life's work. Sir Henry Wellcome's election to the Royal Society is a fitting acknowledgment of one who has done as much as anyone in Great Britain to promote the advance of the science and art of medicine.

Scope and Needs of Medical Research

SIR WALTER MORLEY FLETCHER delivered the Friday evening discourse at the Royal Institution on May 27, taking as his subject "The Scope and Needs of Medical Research". He pointed out that medical research covers immensely wide and varied fields of scientific activity, indefinitely wider than the important part of it which concerns the healing profession as such. Its scope has been defined for Parliamentary purposes as dealing with "the proper development and the right use of the human body in all conditions of activity and environment, as well as with its protection from disease and accident, and its repair". The development of the body includes the relatively new and rapidly growing studies of genetics on one hand, and of nutrition on the other. For the right use of the body we are concerned with personal hygiene as well as with the intricate group of problems belonging to industrial life. Here research is organised under the Industrial Health Research Board. Protection from disease covers the two great fields of preventive and of curative medicine. It deals with the genetic and nutritional control of disease, as well as with studies of infective disease at home and in the tropics. This infinitely varied field of work calls at every point for the intensive application of the primary sciences. This is well illustrated by the study of rickets, the detection of its dietetic basis, and the discovery of the relationship of light radiation to the fat-like substance