

As a professor of geology in Glasgow, Gregory was eminently successful. He had the art of making the subject appear easy and attractive. His classes were the largest in any British university, and he trained a considerable number of students who have afterwards made their mark. Much of this success was due to his remarkable personality. No one could have been more free from assumption or arrogance. His enormous erudition, based on wide reading and a very retentive memory, was free from any kind of ostentation. He was willing to discuss his subject with all comers, however superficial or ignorant; but only those who were experts could appreciate his extraordinary range of vision and realise how much he had seen and learnt. He began his scientific work as a palæontologist and continued through his whole life to work at that subject, but he wrote also on petrology, translated a book on mineralogy, and was recognised as an authority on mineral deposits, such as copper and gold. He was, for example, one of the first to maintain the theory of the origin of the gold mines of the Rand which now receives the support of the majority of the skilled engineers and geologists who are best acquainted with that field. He published a very useful handbook of economic geology.

My experience of a long friendship with Gregory was that it was very unwise to assume that you knew more of any subject than Gregory did: it was dangerous to differ from him in opinion, as in the quietest possible manner he would produce some devastating facts, well attested but not widely known, that would shatter premature hypotheses.

JOHN S. FLETT.

DR. J. G. GARSON

THE death occurred on June 1, at the age of seventy-seven years, of Dr. J. G. Garson of Ewell Court, Surrey. Dr. Garson was born in Orkney and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, taking the degree of M.B. in 1875 and of M.D. in 1878. He was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1875. He also studied in Vienna, Berlin, and Leipzig. For many years Dr. Garson was a prominent figure among anthropologists, especially in connexion with the (Royal) Anthropological Institute, of which he was for long a member of council, and the Anthropological Section of the British Association. He assisted in the revision and re-editing of "Notes and Queries on Anthropology" when a new edition of that manual was issued by the British Association in 1892.

As an anthropologist Dr. Garson specialised in craniology, especially in its bearing on race in the prehistory of Western Europe, and he did much to foster in Great Britain a knowledge and appreciation of the work of Broca and other Continental anthropologists. His close association with French anthropologists and his friendship with Bertillon led him to the study of Bertillon's anthropometric methods of criminal identification, and when this method was adopted in police work in England, Dr. Garson became adviser to the Home Office on the methods of identification of criminals and the

classification of their records, a position which he continued to hold until the introduction of the fingerprint system. Dr. Garson was also lecturer in comparative anatomy at the Charing Cross Hospital and Swiney lecturer of the British Museum. From 1902 until 1904 he acted as assistant general secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, organising the Belfast, Southport, and Cambridge meetings, and was a member of its council until the time of his death.

Dr. Garson was the author of a large number of papers contributed to medical and scientific journals; and his services to anthropological studies were widely recognised on the Continent. He received the award of the medal of the French Association for the Advancement of Science in 1914, and was an honorary or corresponding member of the anthropological societies of Berlin, Moscow, Rome, and Paris. During the War he held a commission as captain in the R.A.M.C.

WE regret to learn from the *Chemiker-Zeitung* of the death on March 14 of Prof. M. A. Rakusin, of Moscow, at the age of sixty-three years. Rakusin was principally interested in the chemistry and technology of petroleum. At first a believer in the mineral origin of petroleum, his researches upon its optical activity led him to uphold the theory of its organic origin, and in 1906 he found evidence of the existence in petroleum of cholesterol. From his studies upon the opacity to polarised (though not to ordinary) light of dilute solutions of petroleum in benzene, he developed a theory of the existence of ultra-microscopic carbon particles in petroleum, from the amount of which he attempted to calculate the geological age of the deposit. In his later studies he took up the investigation of adsorption phenomena and biochemical problems. He had undertaken to prepare the section on optical activity for the new edition of the handbook "Das Erdöl".

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. William Briggs, founder of University Correspondence College (1887) and also of University Tutorial College, where practical work in physics, chemistry, and biology was introduced to supplement correspondence courses, on June 19, aged seventy years.

Dr. Cuthbert Christy, who travelled extensively in Central Africa and was a member of several British and Belgian commissions on sleeping sickness, on May 29, aged sixty-eight years.

Dr. C. Dwight Marsh, formerly physiologist to the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, known for his work on plankton life in fresh-water lakes and the effects of poisonous plants on animals, on April 23, aged seventy-seven years.

Mr. Robert E. Montgomery, adviser on animal health to the Colonial Office, on June 11, aged fifty-one years.

Dr. Marcus S. Paterson, lately medical superintendent of Colindale Hospital, Hendon, an authority on tuberculosis, on June 1, aged sixty-two years.