

As secretary in 1921-26 of the Education Section of the British Association Dr. Clarke did further work for the improvement of teaching methods; she was also chairman of the committee on the teaching of general science in schools, with special reference to the teaching of biology.

Apart from her botanical work, Dr. Clarke had a wide knowledge, and love for, Old London, and only two years ago she founded the London Wanderers Club among old J.A.G.S. girls, herself acting as leader on periodical rambles, sparing no time and trouble in their successful organisation. The esteem in which she was held by her old students was marked last year by the foundation of a "Lilian Clarke" botany prize fund at James Allen's School, and no more fitting tribute to her memory could be raised than an extension of this fund for the further encouragement of the subject for which her life was spent. Her affection was fixed on Dulwich, and by her special request the first part of the funeral service was held in the old College Chapel, in the presence of the upper school and her friends and colleagues.

WINIFRED E. BRENCHLEY.

MR. R. J. MOSS

THROUGH the death on January 27 of Mr. R. J. Moss at the age of eighty-seven years, the Irish scientific world has lost one of its last links with the brilliant period of which FitzGerald was the leading spirit. Moss was appointed keeper of the minerals and analyst to the Royal Dublin Society in 1875, and registrar in 1878, a position which he held until his retirement in 1921. He was the oldest member of the Royal Irish Academy, having been elected in 1874.

Despite his onerous routine duties, Moss published many original papers, chiefly on chemical subjects. Among these may be mentioned those on cobalt chloride as a moisture test, on an improved method of determining the gases dissolved in water, and on the state in which helium exists in pitchblende. In the last he employed an ingenious method of extracting the helium by grinding the mineral *in vacuo*. He also investigated some archaeological problems. His last paper, read before the Royal Irish Academy in 1926, deals with a chemical examination of some ancient metallurgical crucibles. From his analyses he arrived at important conclusions as to the metallurgical knowledge of the ancient Irish.

Moss, however, like so many scientific men of his period, did not restrict his work entirely to one branch of science. His earliest work, carried out in collaboration with H. N. Draper, dealt with the photoconductivity of the allotropic forms of selenium. He published papers on the spheroidal state and in 1896 investigated the effect of X-rays on the combination of hydrogen and chlorine and on the fluorescence of various salts.

It is perhaps for his work in the foundation of the Irish Radium Institute that he will be longest

remembered. When Joly first proposed his method of using radon in fine glass capillaries for therapeutic purposes, Moss designed and constructed the requisite apparatus. In this his skill as a glass-blower and his knowledge of handling small quantities of the rare gases were a great asset. The original apparatus was used for many years at the Institute. During the War he, and his two assistants Messrs. Stone and Deane, carried out all the work of the Institute, and large quantities of radon were supplied to various military hospitals, mainly for the treatment of wound scars.

To those who knew Moss only in his later years, one of his most striking characteristics was the extreme ease with which he carried their burden. To the last he was a valued member of the Irish Radium Institute Committee and a regular attendant at scientific meetings. Of him, I think, we can use, in its best sense, the saying: He, whom the gods love, dies young.

J. H. J. POOLE.

PROF. T. ERIC PEET

WE regret to record the death on February 22 at the age of fifty-two years of Thomas Eric Peet, reader in Egyptology in the University of Oxford.

Eric Peet was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, of which in later life he became a governor, and at Queen's College, Oxford, where he was Jodrell scholar and graduated with second class honours in Classical Moderations and *Literæ Humaniores*. In 1906 he was awarded a Craven fellowship and entered the British School of Archaeology in Rome, later holding the Pelham studentship. The results of his researches were published in 1909 in "The Stone and Bronze Ages in Italy and Sicily", a book which is still recognised as a standard authority.

Peet then turned his attention to Egyptology; and this remained his principal occupation for the rest of his life. He excavated in Egypt at Abydos, at first under Prof. Garstang and then as assistant to Prof. Naville, on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund, collaborating in vols. 1-2 of the valuable memoirs on the cemeteries of that site. He also collaborated in a publication on the inscriptions of Sinai. A work entitled "Rough Stone Monuments and their Builders" appeared in 1912. In the following year Peet was appointed lecturer in Egyptology in the University of Manchester.

After the War, in which Peet served with the King's (Liverpool) Regiment in Salonika and France, he resumed excavation in Egypt on behalf of the Fund at El-Amarna, publishing "The City of Akhenaton", vol. 1 in 1923. His "Egypt and the Old Testament", a book of more general appeal than his other works, had appeared in 1922, and in the meantime he had also devoted attention to the study of papyri, more particularly those of a mathematical character, the result appearing in publications issued from 1920 onwards, dealing with the Rhind, Mayer and other papyri. On Prof. P. E. Newberry's retirement from the