

a profoundly stimulating influence not only upon his immediate colleagues, but also upon the large number of graduate workers and investigators on leave from overseas who visited the Research Station for long or short periods.

Much of Knight's thought and care is built into the structure and equipment of the laboratories and library, but after these are forgotten his informal methods of evoking stimulating discussion, his unobtrusive readiness to give good counsel and frank criticism, and his gift for inspiring confidence will long be remembered by his colleagues.

DR. HERBERT WELD

WE regret to record the death at the age of eighty-three years of Dr. Herbert Weld, geographer and archaeologist, which took place at Lulworth Castle, Dorset, on February 4.

Dr. Weld was best known as an authority on the history and geography of Abyssinia, parts of which country he was the first to map. Of recent years, however, his name has more frequently been before the public in connexion with the exploration of Kish in Iraq by the Oxford University Expedition under Prof. S. Langdon, for which he was responsible, obtaining the concession at Tell Aheimar while in Iraq in 1922, and financing the expedition, which began operations in the following year. In addition to a large number of antiquities and an invaluable store of archaeological data going back to the earliest stages of human occupation of the country, the expedition acquired some thousands of inscribed tablets. These, with such of the antiquities as were allotted to the expedition, were presented to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

Herbert Weld (formerly Weld-Blundell) was the son of Thomas Weld-Blundell of Ince Blundell, and was educated at Stonyhurst and Queen's College, Oxford, from which university he afterwards received the honorary degree of D.Lit. in recognition of his work in connexion with the expedition to Kish. Before his exploratory work in Abyssinia he had already travelled in Persia (1891), Libya (1894), where he visited all the oases in turn, and Cyrenaica (1895). While in Persia he visited Persepolis and took a number of moulds of the reliefs, which he presented to the British Museum and the Louvre. He also prepared a scheme of restoration which was eventually utilised. His first visit to Abyssinia took place in 1898-99, when he travelled from Somaliland to the Sudan, bringing back a large collection of birds, including seventeen new species, which he presented to the British Museum (Natural History). In 1905, after the interruption of the South African war, where he was present as a newspaper correspondent, he was again in Abyssinia, continuing his work of mapping and collecting. On this occasion he covered the previously unmapped course of the Blue Nile from Tsana to the Sudan. He had already been a contributor to the *Geographical Journal*, the "Annual" of the British School at Athens and the *Journal of the African Society*, when in 1923 his

Abyssinian studies bore further fruit in a highly valued volume, "The Royal Chronicle of Abyssinia, 1760-1840", of which the text, in translation from the "Ethiopic Chronicle" in the British Museum, was accompanied by learned and informative appendixes.

PROF. R. A. ROBERTSON

ROBERT ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, born in Rattray, Perthshire, in 1873, was a graduate in arts and in science of the University of Edinburgh. Going to the University of St. Andrews in 1889, he was appointed lecturer in botany in 1891, his status being raised to that of reader in 1915. In 1929 a chair of botany was instituted and Prof. Robertson became its first occupant. He retired in September 1934, and died on January 15 last.

Robertson was a great teacher. Not only had he the power of imparting knowledge, but he also developed initiative and created enthusiasm. In his early years at St. Andrews he provided many examples from the vegetable kingdom to illustrate the then new conception of 'functional inertia' advanced by Fraser Harris. In those days, too, recognition of timbers by their microscopic structure was pioneer work when illustrated by microphotographs.

Prof. Robertson was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Linnean Society. He was a fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and its president in 1915. He was elected to the committee of management of the Imperial Bureau of Mycology from its inception in 1922. Prof. Robertson commanded the St. Andrews contingent of the O.T.C. from 1912 until 1922.

A man of great sympathy and of high principle, Prof. Robertson strove in all things to do that which was best. In this creed he gave forty-four years of strenuous service to his adopted University, and devoted a life to the advancement of botany in Scotland.

PROF. BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN, emeritus professor of Japanese and philology in the University of Tokyo, died at Geneva on February 15 at the age of eighty-four years. At the time of his retirement from the University of Tokyo in 1905, he was widely recognised as one of the first authorities on the life and culture of the Japanese, avoiding the sentimentality and false idealisation which characterised most writers on the country of his day.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Leslie Mackenzie, medical member of the Scottish Board of Health from 1919 until 1928, and president of the Geographical Association in 1931-32, on February 28, aged seventy-two years.

Sir William Morris, superintendent of the Ordnance Survey of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony in 1902-7, on February 26, aged eighty-eight years.