

potential changes occurring in tissues (the invention of a string electrometer; the first physiological application of the cathode ray tube and the loop oscillograph in 1907 and 1912).

Although Cremer was extremely critical and even sarcastic in the scientific sphere, he was humorous and cheerful in ordinary life. This mixture in his imposing personality was very manifest in speech and discussion, and will not be forgotten by his pupils and friends.

H. ROSENBERG.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. C. T. Kingzett, one of the founders of the Institute of Chemistry, and author of the "Chemical

Encyclopædia", and other books on chemistry, on July 29, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. W. R. Sorley, Knightsbridge professor of moral philosophy in the University of Cambridge, author of many well-known works on ethics, on July 28, aged seventy-nine years.

Mr. C. E. Stromeyer, chief engineer of the Manchester Steam Users' Association, president of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society in 1929-31, on July 23, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. F. A. F. C. Went, For.Mem.R.S., extraordinary professor of botany in the University of Leyden, and emeritus professor of botany in the University of Utrecht, on July 24, aged seventy-one years.

## News and Views

### Dr. Griffith Evans

WE extend our congratulations to Dr. Griffith Evans, who will attain his hundredth birthday on August 7. Dr. Evans was a pioneer in the study of protozoology in connexion with infections, and the first man to associate trypanosomes with the production of disease. He was born at Tymawr, near Towyn, Merionethshire. After studying medicine for a short time with a medical practitioner at Towyn and Aberdovey, he entered the Royal Veterinary College, London, where he qualified as M.R.C.V.S. In 1877, he was sent to India in the Army Service Corps. It was there that his great work on blood parasites was carried out. On arrival in India, he was appointed to investigate an endemic disease which for many years had been fatal to cavalry and artillery horses; by microscopic examination of the blood, which revealed the specific bacillus in the blood of every patient, Evans at once proved the disease to be anthrax fever.

IN 1880, Dr. Griffith Evans's work on surra began; and upon studying the reports which had already been made upon the disease he at once reached the opinion that it was due to some parasite of the blood. His first act was to examine microscopically the blood of a surra patient: it was swarming with parasites. Though Koch had not yet made his classical postulates, and though Evans was ignorant of the nature of the microbes revealed to him, he immediately associated them with the production of the disease. They were the parasites which, at first called *Trichomonas evansi*, are now known as *Trypanosoma evansi*. Official opinion was strongly against him, but the Government printed his reports, and he had the gratification of knowing that his statements spurred on a number of younger men to continue investigations along lines which he had laid down. He returned to England in 1885, and after further work in Crookshank's

laboratory, King's College, London, retired from the army in 1890. In 1917 he was awarded the Mary Kingsley Medal by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, in recognition of his distinguished scientific work, and on that occasion he wrote a short autobiographical memoir, which was published in vol. 12 of the *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*.

### Alcohol and Road Accidents

EARLY this year, the Minister of Transport asked the British Medical Association whether it could usefully make any observations on the place of alcohol in the causes of road accidents, in the light of existing knowledge and experience. The Association thereupon appointed a special committee to consider the subject and the report of this committee has just been published (*Brit. Med. J.*, Suppl. July 27, 1935; p. 57). The committee confined itself to an examination of the scientific evidence on the effect of the consumption of alcohol on the functioning of the body, especially of amounts insufficient to produce the state commonly recognised as drunkenness. The Alcohol Committee of the Medical Research Council concluded that the direct effect of alcohol upon the nervous system is, in all stages and upon all parts of the system, to depress or suspend its functions; it is, in short, simply a narcotic drug. The earliest effects are an impairment of the faculties of judgment, concentration, self-criticism and the power of estimating risk, which are often accompanied by a sense of well-being and of self-satisfaction. At the same time, the power of making movements dependent on rapid and accurate co-ordination is adversely affected; the rapidity and accuracy of neuro-muscular co-ordination are diminished. The report reviews the experimental evidence on which the above statements are based, and points out that as little as three ounces of whisky produces these effects. The experiments were of course made in other connexions to determine the effects of alcohol upon the nervous and neuro-muscular systems; but