

## Obituary

### Dr. V. K. Ting

THE death of Dr. V. K. Ting on January 5 in hospital at Changsha, at the age of forty-eight years, removes the second of the three distinguished honorary directors of Cenozoic research in China, which was set up by the late Prof. Davidson Black with funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, when the fundamental importance of the fossil bed found at Choukoutien was demonstrated. The Chinese Press has emphasised the fact that the death of this courageous and learned man is a national loss.

Dr. Ting was not only an enlightened pioneer who exerted great influence in promoting the development of science and its applications, but he was also keenly interested in doing what he could to promote peaceful relations between Great Britain and China. In the days when the restoration to China of the control of Hankow was under consideration, he went to Nanking to propose to his Government a scheme which would satisfy both British and Chinese demands, and was distressed when, after apparently reaching a satisfactory solution of the problem, the announcement was made in the House of Commons that Great Britain had given up Hankow. In spite of this action, which looked like a rebuff to him, he still retained his intense friendliness to the nation which had, in the persons of Prof. Davidson Black and Prof. J. W. Gregory, under whose influence he went to Glasgow, revealed its confidence in him. When, after much delay, the British Government decided to apply the Boxer Indemnity Fund to the same sort of purpose, the promotion of science and education, as the United States under the guidance of President Theodore Roosevelt had done, Dr. Ting was one of the Chinese advisors chosen by Sir Austen Chamberlain to help with his counsel.

After preliminary studies in Peiping, where he enjoyed the friendship of Dr. A. Grabau, who is professor of palaeontology in the National University, Ting proceeded to Cambridge for study and then went to the University of Glasgow, where he was a devoted follower of Prof. J. W. Gregory, and obtained his B.Sc. He then undertook post-graduate research in the University of Freiburg and obtained his doctorate for it. Returning to China with the prestige of his German doctorate and much experience, he became active in shaping policy in the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, especially in promoting the development of mining. With this object, he and his friend, Wong Wen-Hao, recommended the Ministry to invite to China Dr. J. Gunnar Andersson, formerly director of the Swedish Geological Survey. Readers of NATURE are already familiar with the startling events which resulted from his inspired guidance in the fields of both palaeontology and archaeology. It was obvious that some medium for

publication of the rich harvest of results accumulating from the researches of Prof. Davidson Black, Drs. Andersson, Ting and Wong was needed, and in co-operation with his distinguished colleagues, Dr. Ting founded *Palaeontologia Sinica* with funds provided by Mr. Ivan Krueger. This journal played an essential part in the development of science in China, and particularly in making *Sinanthropus* known and appreciated.

While the growing Geological Survey under Dr. Wong's able direction was mainly concerned with the creation of palaeontological knowledge, Dr. Ting never lost sight of the significance of mining for the industrial welfare of China, and he specially devoted himself to the study of mining, until eventually he met his death from coal-gas poisoning in the course of inspection of a mine in Hunan. How thoroughly he carried on this work is revealed by the fact that one of his friends, Mr. Sotsu King, an enthusiastic scientific amateur, founded a special institute for fuel research in Peiping, and equipped it for every kind of modern research on fuel problems. This is merely one example of how the late Dr. Ting used his knowledge and charm in the promotion of scientific progress.

The chief disaster created by the death of Dr. Ting is due to the removal of an essential link in the body of wise men, such as Dr. Hu Shih, Dr. Wong Wen-Hao and others who exert a vast and important influence by restraining the over-hasty adoption of the intoxicating elements of Western culture by an Oriental people. In the intellectual society of Peiping and the important work it is doing, the loss of Dr. Ting will be severely felt. Special sympathy must be extended to the students of the National University of Peiping who sit at the feet of Prof. Grabau, whose co-operation with Dr. Ting afforded an ideally wise guidance.

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### Miss Marian Frost

THE death on December 27 of Miss Marian Frost, chief librarian and curator of the Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum at Worthing, at fifty-nine years of age, means that a delightful personality will be greatly missed by a large number of her friends and admirers of both sexes.

On her own initiative in 1902 Miss Frost communicated with Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and obtained his personal promise to assist Worthing in the way of a Public Library, and he granted £5,000 towards this. She was appointed chief librarian in 1896, and has since taken a prominent part in the educational and social life of Worthing. A fluent speaker, with a thorough knowledge of library and museum work, she was in great demand at the various conferences and other functions with which she became so

intimately associated. The Library Association, the Museums Association, and the British Association saw her regularly at their annual meetings, and few dinners or other social events were complete without her presence and addresses.

Miss Frost was the first woman librarian to have a complete staff of women, and her methods and work have been described in a number of technical publications. She organised periodical art exhibitions in the magnificent art gallery under the same roof, and paid special attention to Sussex, the exhibits having a Sussex interest either from the point of view of the picture, or the artist. She became personally acquainted with some of the principal artists and men of science in Great Britain, and was very successful in inducing many of them to lecture at the Museum or to open exhibitions. The number of well-known names appearing on her syllabuses during the past twenty-five years is indeed surprising.

In the museum Miss Frost obtained the help of naturalists, geologists and archaeologists, and besides having a fine collection of local neolithic, Bronze Age, and Saxon remains (some of altogether exceptional importance), she was successful in getting together a series of Sussex minerals and fossils; a

particularly good collection of birds in their natural surroundings; marine life, and so on.

Miss Frost founded the Worthing Archaeological Society, which undertakes archaeological research, and prints valuable reports. On behalf of the Carnegie Trustees she recently visited Toronto for the Museums Association, and only last year received one of the first diplomas of the Museums Association.

T. S.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. R. G. Canti, a pioneer in the application of cinematography to microscopy, on January 8, aged fifty-two years.

Dr. Howard McClenhan, since 1925 secretary of the Franklin Institute and formerly professor of physics in Princeton University, on December 17, aged sixty-three years.

Prof. Lafayette Benedict Mendel, member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and a pioneer in the study of nutrition in the United States, aged sixty-three years.

## News and Views

### Nationalism and International Science

DR. HANS HOYER, of the Leverkusen-I. G. Werk, referring to the facetious note from a correspondent published in *NATURE* of January 4, p. 28, says that no one in Germany proposes to adopt new words for 'mikroskop' or 'binokular'; and that in any event the word coined by our correspondent was an impossible German construction. We may point out that in the note in *NATURE* of December 28, 1935, p. 1021, on the proposed new German scientific words, we recorded that the Editor of the *Chemiker Zeitung* was opposed to the adoption of such an innovation as *Kleinsechwerkzeug* for *Mikroskop*. Another correspondent, writing upon the same subject, says, "I have travelled much in Germany during the past three years, and I consider it my duty to draw your attention to the fact that eighty to ninety per cent of German scientists have no great sympathy with certain doctrines of their Government and with those of ten to twenty per cent of their Nazi colleagues. . . . I hope you understand that only my great interest in your unique journal, *NATURE*, and in the promotion of international co-operation, has induced me to write this letter. Never write 'Germany' or 'German scientists', but something like 'a small, but unfortunately powerful, group of German scientists'. Hundreds and hundreds of German scientists have during the past few years risked more for their Jewish colleagues, etc., than is known in England".

WE are, of course, glad to know that the great majority of men of science in Germany share the views of scientific workers in other countries as to the right of intellectual freedom and the wrong done by actions which curtail it. We are ourselves solely concerned with the advancement of science, without distinction of country or race. Whatever the feeling of most men of science in Germany upon existing national policy towards 'non-Aryans', the fact remains that the progress of science must suffer by the exile of large numbers of scientific workers, many of them of world-wide reputation. It is far from our wish or intention to say anything derogatory in regard to German scientific work and achievement, but surely the official spirit cannot at present make any claim to be working for the international co-operation which most scientific workers desire to promote. When responsible men of science can express such narrow views as those literally reported on pp. 93-94 of this issue, in connexion with the recent dedication of the Philipp Lenard Institute at Heidelberg, the only possible conclusion is that they no longer believe in the internationalism of science—or, at any rate, think it inexpedient to give public utterance to this principle. They may not be representative of scientific opinion generally in Germany, but when expressions of a more liberal character are made by leading investigators in that country, we shall be glad to make them known to their colleagues elsewhere.