

### Sir Morell Mackenzie (1837-1892)

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, the eminent throat specialist of the Victorian era, was born at Leytonstone, Essex, on July 7, 1837. He came of a medical family, his father being a distinguished general practitioner, and his younger brother Stephen a prominent physician on the staff of the London Hospital. After qualifying in 1858, he went to Paris, where he attended the clinics of Trousseau, Nelaton, Ricord and others, and then to Vienna, where he studied under Oppolzer, Skoda, Rokitansky and Hebra, and finally to Budapest, where he made the acquaintance of Czermak, who was experimenting with the laryngoscope invented by Manuel Garcia. On his return to London, after holding the posts of resident medical officer and registrar at the London Hospital, he set up in practice in George Street, Hanover Square. In 1863 he gained the Jackson prize of the Royal College of Surgeons by an essay on the pathology and treatment of diseases of the larynx and in 1866 was appointed assistant physician to the London Hospital, becoming full physician in 1873. His chief publication was his work on "Diseases of the Throat and Nose", of which the first volume appeared in 1880 and the second in 1884, and at once became the standard book on the subject. He was also the author of "The Use of the Laryngoscope in Diseases of the Throat" (1865), "Diphtheria: Its Nature and Treatment" (1879) and "Hay Fever and Paroxysmal Sneezing", of which the fourth edition was published in 1887.

MACKENZIE'S eminence as a specialist won him many distinctions. He was elected an honorary member of the medical societies of Vienna, Budapest and Prague and one of the two foreign honorary fellows of the American Laryngological Association. In 1887 he was knighted, and in 1888 he received the Grand Cross and Star of the Royal Order of Hohenzollern for his attendance on the Emperor Frederick, the story of whose illness he relates in the book entitled "The Last Illness of Frederick the Noble", for which he incurred the censure of the Royal Colleges. Though a strong advocate for specialism in medicine, as he showed by two articles published in the *Fortnightly Review* in 1885, Mackenzie always maintained that a very complete medical training should be the basis of education for the specialist. Apart from his literary work, Mackenzie deserves to be remembered for his addition of a large number of instruments to the armamentarium of throat surgery and his skill as an operator in the removal of laryngeal growths. Like many other celebrated men, Mackenzie was the subject of asthma, from which he suffered for thirty years, and his death at the comparatively early age of fifty-five years took place on February 3, 1892.

### Acculturation and Native Policy

IN commenting on the recent debate in the House of Lords on policy in native administration in the Empire (see NATURE, June 26, p. 1083) it was urged that the contribution of anthropological science

should not be overlooked when the possible effect of administrative action, and its bearing on future policy were under consideration. A concrete example of the results which may be expected to emerge from such scientific investigation of the effects of cultural impact on a relatively simple people is afforded in a study by Prof. I. Schapera of the BaKxatla, a Bantu-speaking people, who migrated from the western Transvaal to evade the Boers about 1840 and settled in what afterwards became the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Here their earlier contact with Western civilization was continued, at first through missionaries, and afterwards through traders and administrative officials. Prof. Schapera in this study ("Contributions of Western Civilization to Modern Kxatla Culture", *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Africa*, 24, 3) analyses both the acceptances and the rejections by the BaKxatla of elements of Western culture and their consequences, with the somewhat remarkable result that he finds that, while some traditional elements of their own culture are retained and new elements from Western culture are incorporated with little change, an entirely novel cultural pattern is also growing up out of the contact. His paper must be consulted for details, but one instance may be mentioned. As a result of the introduction of Christianity, ancestor worship has virtually died out, but magic is retained. At the same time, the Christianity which is their official religion has come to be something very different from the doctrine as it was first introduced among them. Although it is not possible to generalize from one African tribe to another without testing the premises of the argument, it is clear that investigation on these lines has been shown to be essential before the risk is run of making any fundamental changes of principle or detail in policy.

### School of Colonial Administration at Oxford

ANTHROPOLOGISTS will be afforded an opportunity of bringing these and kindred matters to the notice of administrative officers of the Colonial Services at the Oxford University Summer School of Colonial Administration, which will meet at St. Hugh's College, Oxford on July 3-17. The arrangements have been made in connexion with the Social Studies Research Committee of the University. The School is intended primarily for the benefit of members of the Colonial Administrative Services, more especially, though not exclusively, those serving in Africa. The problems of native administration in tropical Africa will be discussed in a series of lectures, in which they will be brought into relation on broad lines with world problems of economics and politics; while the experience of other countries in tropical administration in relation to such matters as local government, education, elementary and adult, the co-operative movement and the like will be demonstrated. Leading foreign experts will lecture on a number of other topics, and more especially on methods of native administration in territories under other than British rule. The School will be opened by the Right Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore on July 4, and on the same day an inaugural address will be delivered by Lord Lugard. Among those who have promised to take

part in the proceedings and discussions are Sir Alfred Zimmern, Sir Arthur Salter, Lord Lothian, the Warden of All Souls, and Sir Donald Cameron. A number of anthropologists have been invited to join in the discussions and talks, dealing with problems affecting administration in different regions and from different aspects. About one hundred and seventy officers on leave have intimated their intention of attending the School. Although not 'official', the School has had the cordial support and assistance of the Colonial Office.

#### An Astronomical Jubilee

LA SOCIÉTÉ ASTRONOMIQUE DE FRANCE, the creation of Camille Flammarion, who did so much to popularize astronomy in France, has recently celebrated its jubilee. The chief event in the festivities which were held to commemorate the occasion was a great reception on June 16 in the Great Theatre of the Sorbonne, at which nearly three thousand people were present; the President of the French Republic attended and the Minister of Education, M. Jean Zay, presided. M. Jules Baillaud, the present president of the Society, gave an account of the history of the Society and of the work done for it successively by Camille Flammarion and his widow. After a short address by the Minister of Education, Prof. C. Fabry gave a charming account of the progress or revolution in the astronomical outlook in the past fifty years, and some beautiful slides which had been taken by Mr. Ritchey and by M. de Kerolyr at Fourcalquier were shown by M. Baldet. A film was shown of Camille Flammarion's activities in connexion with the Society, and a recorded speech of his was repeated to the audience. A concert followed in which artists from the Opera assisted, while at an earlier stage artists from the Comédie-Française and elsewhere recited poems and read extracts from Camille Flammarion's works. A memorable evening, such as could scarcely have been held anywhere outside Paris, concluded with some ballets danced by pupils of the late Loie Fuller.

THE celebrations were attended by astronomers from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Great Britain, Italy and the United States to add their greetings and congratulations to the Society, its president and its secretary, Madame Camille Flammarion. Opportunity was taken of the presence of many astronomers in Paris for a discussion on various aspects of the problem of interstellar matter in space, which is to be the subject of a conference in Paris on July 11-17 at the Institut Henri-Poincaré. Messrs. M. G. Darmois, J. Baillaud, Lacroute, F. Perrin, Chalonge, Barbier and Mineur gave an account of the present state of our knowledge on interstellar calcium, absorption in space, the structure of the galaxy, the nature and distribution of absorbing clouds and their effect on stellar spectra and colour indices.

#### Covent Garden Laboratory

FOR the last eleven years, contact has been maintained between the work of the Department of

Scientific and Industrial Research on the transport and storage of food and an important branch of industry through the Department's Covent Garden Laboratory in Endell Street, London. This Laboratory has provided an excellent place for keeping under survey the condition of produce passing through our markets generally and for diagnosing or tracing to their source the different types of wastage and deterioration in fruit and vegetables. Samples of fruits showing wastage or abnormal features are collected from the market or are brought to the Laboratory by salesmen. Often the trouble can be diagnosed at once, but sometimes it is desirable to get the diagnosis confirmed by the Low Temperature Research Station at Cambridge or the Ditton Laboratory. The Covent Garden Laboratory also receives for examination samples of consignments of fruits new or comparatively new to Great Britain, such as mangoes, mangosteens and papaws. The interest taken in this work has now made it necessary to leave Endell Street for larger premises, which were opened by Sir Frank Smith on June 28. These are situated on the top floor of Nos. 9-13 Kean Street.

THE new accommodation includes two chemical laboratories, a large 'ice box' for cooling fruit to  $-30^{\circ}$  F. and three cold stores. One, maintained at  $34^{\circ}$  F., will be used for delaying ripening and for observations on apples; another at  $45^{\circ}$  F. for work on citrus fruits, and the third at  $65^{\circ}$  F. will be used as a conditioning room for initiating ripening. The two colder stores will also be used for studying the advantages of temporary cold storage for wholesalers or retailers, that is, storage of, say, mushrooms and melons for short periods. In the chemical laboratories estimations of the sugar and acid content of the fruit will be carried out. The sugar content of apples, of course, varies between individual specimens, and to get a representative sample the apples are frozen solid and then ground up into a fine powder. Another important measurement to be made is the rate of respiration of the fruit. This not only gives an indication of the age of the apple, but also is important in connexion with research which is being carried out on the mechanism by which sugar breaks down to carbon dioxide. The alcohol content of apples increases as they grow older, and this is also a subject of measurement, as it is hoped that this factor will prove an important diagnostic indication. Produce from the Empire overseas is inspected before being shipped in order that nothing may be exported which is not up to standard. Facilities will be available at the new Laboratory for officers of the Dominions and Colonies engaged in following up this work.

#### Medicine Stamp Duties

DUTIES in respect of medicines were first imposed so far back as 1783. The tax then was twofold, as it is to-day. It was imposed on all persons who sold medicines, not being doctors, apothecaries, etc., and secondly a duty was 'laid on the medicines' themselves when sold by such persons. A Select Committee