

President Masaryk

By the death of Prof. Thomas Garrigue Masaryk on September 14, Czechoslovakia has lost its first president and the world is deprived of an eminent and much-respected philosopher and statesman.

Thomas Masaryk was born of humble Slovak parents at Hodonin, Moravia, on March 7, 1850. He had a chequered boyhood and youth. A primary school inspector secured for him the consent of the authorities to allow him to attend a secondary school to train for a teaching post. His parents' poverty, however, made it necessary for him to earn his living, and he was apprenticed first to a locksmith in Vienna and then to a country blacksmith. A former teacher arranged for his return to school, and in 1865 he entered Brno Grammar School. He made good progress, but his passion for truth brought him into conflict with the authorities, who forced him to leave. Fortunately, he was able to continue his studies at Vienna where, in 1878, he graduated as a doctor of philosophy.

A work on hypnotism in 1880 was followed by "Suicide and Modern Civilization" (1881). It was an analysis of causes of the high number of suicides recorded in Central Europe, and attracted attention both at the time and later. This philosophical study secured for Masaryk a Vienna lectureship, but in the following year he was made a professor at Prague. In 1885 he completed a lengthy work, "Concrete Logic", having previously written several shorter philosophical works, which were also translated into German. His later books mostly took on a political aspect. Thus "The Czech Question" appeared in 1895, and the "Philosophical and Sociological Foundation of Marxism" in 1898. Besides writing for the literary and philosophical journal, *Čas* (Time), which he founded, he kept in touch with science sufficiently to contribute a weekly scientific column in the Prague newspaper, *Národní Listy*. He did not identify himself with blind nationalism, and his scepticism (justified as investigation proved) of the genuineness of some alleged old Czech manuscripts brought him much abuse.

From his philosophical studies he was led to the formation of a 'Realist Movement' amongst educated Czechs. This was "an attempt to popularise the whole realm of Science and Philosophy. Without distorting scientific exactitude, Realism strives to render science accessible to every class of the people. It is a protest against the monopoly of learning, its endeavour is to socialise scientific learning and philosophical culture".

In 1878 Masaryk married Miss Charlotte Garrigue, a distinguished American, and incorporated her name in his own. She entered ardently into all his work until her death in 1923. They paid several visits together to England, America and Russia, and Prof. Masaryk continued to write many philosophical works dealing particularly with modern problems. He entered the Austrian Reichsrat as a 'Realist' in 1902, and rapidly made a reputation for honesty and uprightness, and he was quick to express his dissatisfaction at the methods practised, it appeared, by

all parties. His realism was a reaction against this and against the Tolstoyan slavonic philosophy of non-resistance to evil. Just before the Great War he wrote "The Philosophy of History and Religion in Russia", one of the most important books on the subject, whilst after the War he described his work for Great Britain and the allies and for the liberation of the Slavs. He was, for a time during the War, a professor at King's College, London.

On October 28, 1918, the Czechoslovak Republic proclaimed its independence with Prof. Masaryk (still in exile) as its first President. He held this post until December 1935, when he relinquished it with the recommendation that his younger collaborator, Dr. Eduard Beneš, be elected to succeed him. During the seventeen strenuous and difficult years of his term of office, Masaryk gave very active support to many educational movements. The new University of Brno was named in his honour, whilst the Masaryk Academy of Work, which concerns itself with supplying funds for researches in pure and applied science and in securing publication of the results, received his very keen approval and valuable support. Masaryk was in no small measure responsible for many educational advances associated with his country. Through his ministers, he was able to institute an enlightened policy advancing not only the hitherto restricted culture of the Czechoslovaks themselves, but also not overlooking the needs of the German, Hungarian and Polish minorities living within the frontiers of Czechoslovakia.

Prof. Masaryk leaves a son, Mr. Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Minister Plenipotentiary in London, a married daughter and Miss Alice Masaryková, who had been his companion during the last years and is well known for her Red Cross and humanitarian activities. G. D.

Mr. F. A. Potts

WE greatly regret to record the death in London on September 15 of Mr. F. A. Potts, University lecturer in zoology and fellow (formerly tutor) of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He was a member of a remarkable group of young men who were specializing in zoology at Cambridge in 1906-8, his group including Prof. W. E. Agar (Melbourne), the late Dr. W. S. Perrin (London Hospital) and the late Rev. S. A. McDowall (Winchester). In his final examination he obtained first classes in both zoology and geology, being one of the last students to obtain the double honour.

Mr. Potts, after visits to Naples and Plymouth, then settled in Cambridge, assisting in the teaching of the Zoological Department until the outbreak of the Great War. During this period he became well-known for his activity in the then rather modern lines of research. He directed his interest first of all to the effects of *Peltogaster* and *Sacculina* on their crustacean hosts, *castration parasitaire*, extending this to a general consideration of phenomena associated with parasitism. His next investigations were devoted to the Rhizocephalan *Mycetomorpha* and to Nematoda, here a notable research dealing

with the free-living, hermaphrodite species. In 1913 he commenced an association with A. G. Mayer which continued until the latter's death in 1923. He several times visited the Carnegie Station off Florida, and in 1913 joined the Carnegie Expedition to Torres Straits. This association produced three important researches, now almost classical, namely: on the Rhizocephalan genus *Thompsonia*, which gave suggestions as to the evolution of the group; on the crabs forming galls in corals, including a study of their modes of life and their adaptations; and on the Crustacea, Ophiurans and Polychaets in association with the Crinoids of coral reefs. A post-War visit to Samoa and to further coral reefs was responsible for studies of rates of growth of Cirripedes and other forms. In addition to the above, there are a series of papers dealing with the systematics of Polychaets of the Indian Ocean and an important study of *Teredo*.

On the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, Mr. Potts was much exercised as he had been brought up to abhor war—but he felt strongly the devastation of Belgium and Louvain. His brothers had families and could not serve; therefore he must play the family's part. He at once put himself in training and in November almost "coerced" the colonel of one of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding battalions to give him a commission as he "had to get out to the trenches before Christmas". He was a great success, keeping the mess cheerful, and on the formation of a machine gun section was placed in charge "because he knew all about science". He was there on the Western front for four years—and the writer, knowing his upbringing, his psychology and his extraordinary powers of imagination, feels that here was the highest form of courage.

Mr. Potts was a man with a host of friends, whose sympathy will go out to his widow and son. He was always cheerful, bright, happy, helpful and full of fun. In his teaching he dealt with every grade of student and liked to undertake new courses; his special subjects were worms and molluscs. He was thus eminently suited to the production as editor of that text-book on "The Invertebrata", in which he was associated with Borradaile, Eastham and Saunders, and to which he devoted the last years of his life.

J. S. G.

Prof. J. E. Duerden

THE death of Prof. James Edwin Duerden, which occurred on September 4 as a result of a fall sustained on his way to attend the meeting of the British Association at Nottingham, removes a man who has rendered devoted service to science in many fields.

Prof. Duerden was a student at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, during the years 1885–1889, and obtained his associateship of the College in zoology. His first appointment was as demonstrator in biology and palaeontology at the Royal College of Science, Dublin, where he developed an enthusiasm for marine work, resulting in valuable published contributions to knowledge of the Hydroids and Polyzoa of the Irish coast. During this time, he was appointed

a member of the Irish Fishery Survey. In 1895 he accepted the position in Jamaica of curator of the Museum at Kingston. Here he commenced a series of studies of the Actinaria and corals of the West Indies. He pursued his investigations into living and fossil corals at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A., and was appointed Bruce Fellow there in 1901.

The value of Duerden's work was recognized when the Carnegie Institution of Washington granted him facilities for the study of European fossil corals, and he was also selected as leader of an expedition to the Hawaiian Islands to study Pacific corals. He was soon recognized internationally as an authority on the structure and development of corals, and became assistant professor of zoology in the University of Michigan. In 1905, he was appointed professor of zoology in the new Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, South Africa. Whilst there, he was placed in charge of ostrich investigations for the Government. He quickly became an authority on the development of ostrich plumes and showed how the serious defects known as bars in the feather were produced by a reduction in blood-pressure during the night period. After the slump, in 1913, of the ostrich plume industry, he became interested in the scientific aspect of wool production, and was appointed Director of Wool Research in the Dominion, whilst retaining his professorship at Grahamstown. He was a pioneer in work on the assessment of quality in the fleece and studied the embryology and evolution of the South African merino fleece.

Duerden served successively as president, member of council and honorary secretary of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. He retired from Grahamstown in March 1932 and became an honorary member of the staff of the Wool Industries Research Association at Torridon, Leeds, in May 1932. Here he followed up embryological work on the coats of British sheep, specializing on follicular arrangement, and arrived at important conclusions on the specificity of the follicle. At the time of his death he was collating his results prior to publication. His enthusiasm and personality made him a delightful colleague and an inspiration to all who worked with him.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. D. H. Bergey, formerly professor of bacteriology and hygiene in the University of Pennsylvania, known for his work on food preservation, on September 5, aged seventy-six years.

Prof. H. H. Collins, professor of biology in the University of Pittsburgh, known for his work on mammalian anatomy, on August 31, aged fifty-two years.

Prof. Adolf L. F. Lehmann, in 1909–30 professor of chemistry in the University of Alberta, and earlier associated with the Department of Agriculture of Mysore, on September 27, aged seventy-three years.

Senator Alessandro Lustig, formerly professor of general pathology in the University of Florence, known for his work on bubonic plague and sanitation, on September 23, aged seventy-nine years.