

Obituary Notices

Prof. V. L. Kellogg

IN the death of Vernon Lyman Kellogg, which took place at Hartford sanatorium (Conn.) on August 8 last, the United States loses an eminent citizen and one who was a leading figure in the scientific life of that country. Born at Emporia, Kansas, in 1867, he graduated at the University of Kansas in 1889 and at Cornell University in 1891. His academic training was primarily as a zoologist and was continued in Paris and in Leipzig.

Although a man of broad zoological interests, Kellogg's scientific papers were almost entirely concerned with entomology. For a few years he taught that branch of the subject at Kansas University and afterwards he became professor of entomology and lecturer in bionomics at Stanford University. In 1908 he married Miss Charlotte Hoffman of Oakland, California. During his long period of tenure at Stanford, he was closely associated with the late David Starr Jordan, in collaboration with whom he wrote several books on diverse aspects of general zoology.

Kellogg's career at Stanford University virtually came to an end with the advent of the Great War. It was through the influence of Herbert Hoover that Kellogg was seconded for work in connexion with the American Relief Commission in Europe. Here his organizing capacity found scope, and he rapidly came into prominence owing to the leading part he performed in the Commission's activities. From 1917 until 1919 he was director in Brussels of this Commission for Belgium. His labours, on behalf of the benevolent efforts made by the United States, took him also to Poland and to Russia. The services which he rendered in organizing relief and other measures, during and after the War, received recognition by the bestowal upon him of decorations by France, Belgium and Poland.

On returning to the United States, Kellogg resigned his position at Stanford University, which he had held from 1894 until 1920. He had lately become permanent secretary of the National Research Council, an office which he administered until he retired from the post at the end of 1931. Kellogg's main interests were no longer in academic work, and he embarked upon what had been described as his period of greatest influence and accomplishment. In his capacity as secretary he played a major part in organizing the National Research Council. Being also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and a member of its executive committee, and of other bodies, he was able to do much towards moulding the trend of scientific activities in America. Prof. R. A. Millikan, writing in *Science* of September 3, recounts that about 1930 Kellogg found himself to be the victim of an incurable malady known as Parkinson's disease (paralysis agitans). The fortitude with which he

faced this sentence, with unimpaired mind and failing body, won the admiration of personal friends. He only missed by a few months attaining his seventieth birthday.

Kellogg's contributions to entomology were in taxonomy and anatomy. For a number of years he was the leading authority on bird parasites or Mallophaga. His other papers were chiefly concerned with the structure of Diptera, and he also made a special study of the family Blepharoceridae and their larvæ. His monograph on this group, and also that on the Mallophaga, formed parts of the "Genera Insectorum". His writings also include anatomical and other articles on Lepidoptera. Most of his papers were short, but they usually brought to light new or interesting features. His books were of a more general character and included "American Insects", 1904; "Evolution and Animal Life" (with D. S. Jordan), 1907; "Darwinism To-day", 1907; "Economic Zoology and Entomology" (with R. W. Doane), 1915; "Mind and Heredity", 1923; "Evolution", 1924, and several others.

During the War years, and shortly afterwards, Kellogg wrote various books of a different character—they were incidental to that upheaval in Europe and had particular reference to its political and economic outcome. These writings made his name familiar among his countrymen as that of a notable exponent of those times.

A. D. IMMS.

Mr. F. C. Thompson

FREDERICK CHARLES THOMPSON, lecturer in the Leather Industries Department and research assistant in the Procter International Research Laboratory of the University of Leeds, died on September 4 at the age of forty-six years. He received his early education in a Leeds secondary school and then followed the honours course in pure chemistry at the University of Leeds, graduating in 1911. Two years later he obtained an honours degree in the chemistry of leather manufacture, and in the same year was appointed to the staff of the Leather Industries Department as assistant lecturer and demonstrator under the late Prof. H. R. Procter.

In 1913, Mr. Thompson became research assistant in the Procter International Laboratory and in 1923 was made a lecturer in the Leather Industries Department. He carried out a great variety of investigations on subjects connected with the applications of protein chemistry to leather manufacture independently and in association with Prof. H. R. Procter, Prof. D. McCandlish and Mr. W. R. Atkin, a fellow lecturer in the Department. Recently, in collaboration with Mr. Atkin, he re-wrote Procter's "Leather Chemists Pocket Book", and this revised enlarged edition is generally regarded as the standard analytical text-book for the leather chemist.