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.

Mr. Thompson was an authority on the application to problems of the leather trade, of electrometric and colorimetric titration of reactions and was frequently consulted by workers in other branches of applied science. In recent years he collaborated with Dr. J. Gordon of the Leeds Medical School in research work upon the complex subject of immunity, where Mr. Thompson's knowledge of protein chemistry proved useful, and several joint papers have been published by them in the *British Journal of Experimental Pathology*.

Mr. Thompson enjoyed the complete confidence of his colleagues in the International Society of Leather Trades' Chemists—an organization with branches in almost every civilized country in the world. After occupying many responsible positions as chairman of commissions, he became president of the Society in 1932 and held the office for two years. One notable contribution to the work of the Society which has earned the lasting gratitude of leather chemists was made jointly with his colleague Mr. W. R. Atkin. For many years difficulty had been experienced in securing uniform supplies of hide powder, an essential material for the quantitative estimation of tannin in tanning materials used commercially. By their joint research, Thompson and Atkin established the cause of this variation and showed how it might be readily overcome. As a result of this work, far greater concordance of results is now secured in quantitative tannin analysis than was previously possible.

Mr. Thompson was a tutor of the University of Leeds, and for several years had been a member of the local committee of the Association of University Teachers. He had many interests outside university life—chief amongst them being welfare work amongst boys. He holds the record for longest continuous service with the Boys' Brigade in Leeds. Under his captaincy his Company won all the trophies open to competition, and held the battalion ambulance cup continuously for twenty-three years. For many years he was superintendent of the Burley Methodist Church Sunday School. He was interested in music and his ability as a violinist resulted in his association with several amateur orchestras. In 1919 he married Miss M. Hampshire, and she survives him.

D. McC.

Prof. A. W. Gibb

PROF. A. W. GIBB, first Kilgour professor of geology in the University of Aberdeen, died on July 12 at the age of seventy-three years.

Alfred William Gibb was born and educated in Aberdeen. After taking the degree of master of arts at the University of Aberdeen, he spent some years in teaching and in business before resuming his studies. He was one of the first to graduate at Aberdeen with the newly established degree of bachelor of science, and soon after he became assistant to the professor of natural history. In Aberdeen at this time, 1896, the teaching of geology and zoology was carried on in the one department. Fortunately, the interests of the professor, Henry Alleyne Nicholson, were keenly palaeontological and his enthusiasm and care in developing the geological side of his teaching

were shared by his assistant. When the late Sir J. Arthur Thomson succeeded Nicholson, he left the geology teaching entirely to Gibb. In 1908, a lectureship independent of the Natural History Department was established, and in 1922, the Kilgour chair of geology was founded. To each, in turn, Gibb was appointed, and he was responsible for the planning and development of the Department of Geology in Marischal College.

Instruction in the mineralogical and petrological aspects of geology was Prof. Gibb's personal responsibility. To this end, he spent his spare time studying with Miers and Judd, and in Heidelberg with Rosenbusch. In 1908 he was awarded a doctorate in science for a thesis describing the rocks of the basic complex of Belhelvie, and he communicated several papers on diverse aspects of local geology to the Geological Society of Edinburgh.

Prof. Gibb's main interest was his 'ordinary' class, the first-year class for arts and science students. His lectures were extraordinarily popular, vying with those of his colleague, J. Arthur Thomson, and infecting generations of students with a vital interest in the subject which he expounded with such fascination. He had been teaching for forty years when he was forced by ill-health to retire in 1936, and the news of his death will be received with the regret that he was unable to enjoy fully the peace of his retirement.

Prof. A. Heim, For. Mem. R.S.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:

"Though his name will always be associated with his studies on Alpine structure, the part of Prof. Albert Heim as the founder of the Swiss Seismological Commission deserves to be remembered. In 1878, the first year of its existence, the Commission consisted of seven members, with Prof. A. Forster of Bern as president and Heim as secretary. To Heim was also assigned the task of collecting observations from Zurich, Uri and other cantons. Though its work was taken over in 1913 by the Swiss Meteorological Office, the Commission, re-named as the Swiss Earthquake Service, may claim to be the oldest, and by no means the least useful, of all existing committees for the study of earthquakes."

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Major B. F. S. Baden-Powell, known for his pioneer work in aeronautics, formerly president of the Royal Aeronautical Society, on October 3, aged seventy-seven years.

Mr. Richard Inwards, a former president of the Royal Meteorological Society, on September 30, aged ninety-seven years.

Mr. Arthur Kitson, who was early associated with electric lighting and the telephone, and invented the Kitson light, among numerous other devices, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. W. St. Clair Symmers, emeritus professor of pathology in the Queen's University, Belfast, on October 4, aged seventy-four years.