

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.