

prohibitive sum for poor villagers in India. Napier found the village cases near Calcutta to amount to 33 per thousand population, a rate which would give one million in Bengal. The true number must be much less, as in large areas the prevalence is far less than near Calcutta. Owing to their much more scattered distribution in Bengal than in Assam,

and the absence of qualified doctors in Indian villages, the problem of treatment in Bengal is more difficult, and requires for its solution a far cheaper preparation, which is equally effective as the pentavalent antimony ones. With such a drug and sufficient village medical staff, kala-azar could be reduced to small proportions.

OBITUARIES

Sir William Prout, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.

THE death of Sir William T. Prout occurred on November 18, at his residence at the Manor House, Lingfield, Surrey. He was born in 1862, the son of Mr. William Prout of Mauritius, and was educated in the University of Edinburgh, graduating in medicine in 1884. He served as a medical officer in Mauritius until his transfer as an assistant Colonial surgeon under the Colonial Office in the Gold Coast in 1888, serving later in the Gambia until his promotion to the post of principal medical officer in Sierra Leone in 1895, where he was an official member of Legislative Council until his retirement in 1906.

During his service in these territories, Prout acquired valuable knowledge and experience in the treatment of tropical diseases, publishing original papers on yaws ("Diseases of Warm Climates" Davidson); *Filaria volvulus* (*Arch. Parasit.*, May 1901); filariasis in Sierra Leone (*Brit. Med. J.*, 1902), etc. He was actively interested in the preventive aspect of tropical medicine, and in the improvement of conditions of life for both Europeans and natives. It was largely due to his initiative that application of the principles of tropical sanitation became increasingly employed in West Africa and elsewhere, with the corresponding improvement in life and health which has been such a marked feature in the early years of this century.

Following his retirement from West Africa in 1906, Prout became honorary lecturer in tropical medicine in the University of Liverpool. He was appointed medical adviser to the Colonial Office in 1912, and later became consulting physician to the Colonial Office until his retirement in 1929, serving during the War of 1914-18 with the R.A.M.C. in Egypt, and being twice mentioned in despatches. He was one of the original members of the Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee of the Colonial Office of which he remained a member until his death, and was an ex-president of the Tropical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, a fellow of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine.

The honour of C.M.G. was conferred on him in 1905, that of knighthood in 1924, and K.C.M.G. in 1928, while he also received an O.B.E. (military) for his war service.

He married Miss Mary Mackenzie in 1888 and had two children, a son being killed during the War of 1914-18.

A. E. HORN.

Mr. P. H. Grimshaw, I.S.O.

PERCY HALL GRIMSHAW found the bent of his life when in 1895 he forsook a clerk's stool in a bank in Leeds to fill a post in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. His earlier interests had been botanical, but the chance that, of his colleagues in the Natural History Department, Dr. R. H. Traquair was particularly interested in fossil fishes and Dr. Eagle Clarke in birds and mammals, turned his attention to the lower forms of animal life, and he singled out for investigation the insects and particularly the Diptera. His papers, mostly published in the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* and its successor the *Scottish Naturalist*, which for many years he assisted in editing, added greatly to the knowledge of the distribution of insects in Scotland, and he travelled widely on the mainland and in the outer islands to collect material for his "Diptera Scotica" and other contributions.

One of his interesting discoveries was the presence in Great Britain of a bot-fly (*Cephenomyia rufibarbis*) parasitic on red-deer, and his study of the life-history of the destructive heather-beetle (*Lochmæa suturalis*), made in connexion with the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease, suggested the few measures of control which seem to be possible.

When he was appointed keeper of the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum in 1930, Grimshaw continued the development of the educational appeal of the exhibits, and under his supervision was created a Children's Gallery which for the attractiveness and suggestiveness of its collections would be difficult to beat.

On his retiral from the keepership in 1935 he was decorated with the Imperial Service Order. He died suddenly on November 14, at the age of sixty-nine years.

JAMES RITCHIE.

Prof. Anton von Eiselsberg

PROF. ANTON FREIHERR VON EISELSBERG, the eminent Vienna surgeon, who died last October, was born at Steinhaus in Upper Austria on July 31, 1860. He received his medical education in Vienna, Wurzburg, Zurich and Paris, and qualified in Vienna in 1884. After serving as assistant to Prof. Billroth, the pioneer in visceral surgery, he was appointed successively professor of surgery at Utrecht (1893), Königsberg (1896) and Vienna (1901), where he retired in 1931. Besides being a first-class operator and a