

OBITUARIES

Dr. Edward Kidson, O.B.E.

DR. EDWARD KIDSON, director of the Meteorological Office, Wellington, New Zealand, died suddenly on June 12 at the early age of fifty-seven years.

Dr. Kidson belonged to a well-known Nelson and Christchurch family, but was born at Bilston, Staffordshire, on March 12, 1882. He received his school and university education in New Zealand, graduating at the University of New Zealand with first-class honours in physics in 1904. His first post was that of assistant observer at the Magnetic Observatory, Christchurch, which led to his joining the staff of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1908. Before the Great War he was engaged on magnetic surveys in South America, Newfoundland and Australia, and he spent six months as magnetic observer on the magnetic survey ship *Carnegie* belonging to the Carnegie Institution.

During 1915-1919 he was on active service in the Meteorological Section of the Royal Engineers with the Salonika Force. He was mentioned in dispatches and made O.B.E. for his war service. After the War he returned to the Carnegie Institution and was given charge of its Magnetic Observatory at Watheroo, Western Australia. Kidson remained at Watheroo from 1919 until 1921, when he joined the Meteorological Service of the Australian Commonwealth as assistant director.

In 1921 Kidson returned to New Zealand on being appointed director of the Meteorological Office, Wellington. The Meteorological Service of New Zealand when Kidson took charge was in a very unsatisfactory state and the total staff numbered only five. With characteristic energy he set to work to build up a service based on modern scientific lines. Kidson's travels had kept him in touch with meteorological progress in America and Europe; he was a man of science and appreciated the work of the Norwegian school of meteorologists. He visited Bergen in 1931 and 1935 and, aided by one of Dr. Bjerknes's assistants, who stayed a few months in New Zealand on his return from the Antarctic, he introduced the Norwegian ideas into the work of his service and in this way broke new ground in the study of meteorology in the southern hemisphere. He was fortunate in his choice of scientific assistants, and with their aid built up a meteorological service, consisting of forty-five members, which compares favourably from a scientific point of view with the meteorological service of any other country.

Kidson's own scientific work, with the exception of the reports he prepared on terrestrial magnetism while on the staff of the Carnegie Institution, was devoted almost entirely to meteorology. He wrote extensively on the climate of New Zealand, and was interested in the investigation of the upper

atmosphere. He published papers on weather forecasting and the theory of tornadoes. He was particularly interested in Antarctic meteorology; his chief published work was a thorough discussion of the meteorological records of Shackleton's first expedition (1907-9) and at the time of his death he was on the point of completing a compilation and discussion of the meteorological data obtained on Mawson's later expeditions.

Kidson's sound scientific knowledge, coupled with a wide and sane outlook on international meteorological problems, was unsurpassed in the southern hemisphere, and his early death just at the time when such qualities are especially required is a real tragedy.

G. C. SIMPSON.

Dr. C. H. Mayo

DR. C. H. MAYO, who died on May 28, was one of the greatest of contemporary American surgeons. During his active career of nearly fifty years, he was associated with his elder brother, Dr. W. J. Mayo, in founding and fostering the Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, which bears their name. In their lifetime, this has expanded rapidly until now it is a huge centre of medical and scientific effort, an expansion the more remarkable because of the small size of the town and its distance from main roads and railways.

Dr. Mayo's scientific work cannot be considered apart from the development of the Clinic. At an early date the brothers determined to devote the profits of the enterprise to the furtherance of medical education and research, and gradually brought together a team of workers which included clinicians, experts in preclinical subjects and, notably, experts in the related sciences of biochemistry and biophysics. Thus their object has come to be the intensive study of all aspects of disease, as well as its treatment. This type of organization was an admirable background for Dr. Mayo's substantial contributions to the surgery of the thyroid gland. He was one of the earliest to operate for thyrotoxicosis, and did much to eliminate the technical difficulties associated with this procedure. Later he was able to utilize the discovery by his colleagues, H. S. Plummer and Boothby, that the administration of iodine reduced the dangers of operation, and to add and adopt further refinements in pre-operative and post-operative care, and in surgical technique. His work on transplantation of the ureters to the colon in cases of ectopia vesicæ was also outstanding, and in his hands this was a safe and satisfactory operation. He approached the problem as a biologist, and in inducing the rectum to function as a cloaca he displayed great technical ingenuity and a sturdy respect for the conservation of renal function.

Dr. Mayo was essentially a general surgeon, and his nimble mind attacked and solved many diverse

problems of technique. In the operating theatre he combined wise conservatism with amazing resourcefulness, and one of his delights was to introduce and perfect operative details, many of which are in general use. His reputation was international, and this, with his personal charm, made him a welcome figure at surgical meetings the world over. Based as they were on great experience and uncommon clinical acumen, his opinions were listened to with respect, and both abroad and in the Clinic he did much to secure the free interchange of surgical ideas and ideals.

Prof. Edgar Zunz

WE regret to announce the death on June 11 after a short illness of Dr. Edgar Zunz, professor of pharmacodynamics and therapeutics in the University of Brussels and an eminent personality in the Belgian medical world. He was born at Charleroi on November 9, 1874, and received his medical education at Brussels where he qualified with distinction in July 1897. Having won a travelling scholarship, he spent some time at Heidelberg in studying organic chemistry in Gattermann's laboratory, and later at Strassburg in Hofmeister's laboratory of biochemistry and at Bern under Kronecker, the physiologist. On his return to Brussels in 1900 he was appointed assistant to Prof. Victor Jacques in the laboratory of pharmacodynamics and therapeutics. In the following year he presented a thesis to the University of Brussels on the digestion of albuminoid substances, which gained him the degree of doctor in physiological science. In 1906 he was appointed an *agrégé* in the Brussels medical faculty, and gave a course of practical demonstrations in medical chemistry. In 1909 he became lecturer to postgraduates in toxicology and in 1913 instructed students in the elements of pharmacography. During the War he did valuable work as director of the medical department including the care of the gassed at the Ocean Ambulance at La Panne. In 1919 he was appointed professor of pharmacodynamics and therapeutics in the Brussels faculty of medicine and held this post until his death.

Zunz was a remarkably fertile writer. His two chief works were his treatises on general and special pharmacodynamics published in 1930 and 1932 respectively. He also collaborated with Prof. Terroine in a work on basal metabolism (1925), and contributed articles on coagulation of the blood to Roger and Binet's text-book of physiology and on the regulation of the composition of the blood to the fourth volume of the "Encyclopédie Française". He further contributed many papers to Belgian and foreign journals on the digestion of proteins, the properties of proteoses and peptones, coagulation of the blood, secretion of adrenalin and insulin, action of the alkaloids of opium, the process of digestion, phenomena of adsorption and surface tension, and the effects of poison gases. He took an active part in the campaign against alcoholism and was president of the International Congress Against Alcoholism held at Antwerp in 1928 as well as president of the

scientific committee of the World Union Against Alcoholism.

Zunz was the recipient of many honours. In 1919 he was elected a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine, of which he became president in 1934, and in the following year was president of the annual congress known as the Journées Médicales de Bruxelles. He was also an Officer of the Order of Leopold, Commander of the Order of the Crown, Officer of the Legion of Honour, honorary doctor of the University of Montpellier and corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Rome.

J. D. R.

Prof. Rudolf Fick

PROF. FICK, who died on May 23 at the age of seventy-three years, retired from the chair of anatomy in the University of Berlin in 1935. He brought down to the rising generation of German anatomists the great traditions of Gegenbaur and of Koelliker. Indeed Prof. Fick's first appointment was in Koelliker's department at Würzburg. His earliest research work was on the ripening of the cells of reproduction, which led to his becoming assistant to Wilhelm His in Leipzig. There the nature of his inquiries took a new direction; he applied to the study of the human body a more complete understanding of mechanics than had been done previously. The results of his studies are embodied in his "Handbuch der Anatomie und Mechanik der Gelenke" (1904-1911; 3 vols.). His fellow anatomists admired his researches more than they studied them. In all he did there are to be seen care and accuracy. This is particularly true of his pioneer research into the anatomy of the orang—carried out on adult animals which died in the Zoological Gardens of Leipzig towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Prof. Fick was born in Zurich, the son of the distinguished physiologist. Although born in Switzerland he was intensely German in feeling and in aspiration. From an assistantship in Leipzig he was appointed to the German University in Prague in 1905. Four years later he was invited to Innsbruck. In 1917 he was called to Berlin to fill the highest post in anatomy in Germany—a prize awarded perhaps more because of his outstanding merits as a man than of the importance of his researches in anatomy. His chief aim in life was to teach his students; he preferred to spend his energies and time in the preparation of anatomical specimens to illustrate his lectures rather than on researches for the advancement of anatomy.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Henry Havelock Ellis, a pioneer in the psychology of sex, on July 8, aged eighty years.

Prof. R. I. Meyer, editor of the latest edition of "Gmelin's Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie", known for his work on the rare earths, on June 18, aged seventy-four years.

Prof. G. E. Nichols, professor of botany and director of the Botanical Gardens at Yale University, on June 20, aged fifty-seven years.