OBITUARIES

Mr. H. Havelock Ellis

BY the death on July 8 of Henry Havelock Ellis, both science and literature have sustained a heavy loss. Havelock Ellis was born at Croydon eighty years ago. At sixteen years of age, owing to ill-health, he was sent to Australia, and later became an assistant schoolmaster in a suburb of Sydney. During a lonely adolescence he was greatly troubled by moral and spiritual difficulties, and decided to devote his life to systematic inquiries that should make clear to himself and to others the real nature of the problems of sex. With this in view he returned to London, and trained as a general practitioner at St. Thomas's Hospital.

After a few months in general practice, literary and scientific activities began to absorb all Havelock Ellis's time. He became editor of the "Contemporary Scientific Series" and co-editor of the "Mermaid Series" of old dramatists; and was soon widely known as a critic and essayist, and later as a popular philosopher and an interpreter of the national genius of France and Spain. His books on "The World of Dreams", "Man and Woman", "The Criminal", "A Study of British Genius", revealed his strong psychological interests and his gift for impartially collecting scientific observations and expounding scientific facts in a lucid and impartial way.

In a long list of publications, the most important work written by Havelock Ellis was that entitled "Studies in the Psychology of Sex". There is no need to repeat the oft-told story of the prosecution of its publisher, and the founding of a defence committee which included George Moore, William Sharp and Bernard Shaw. In spite of judicial condemnation, the volumes might have been seen on the shelves of most British psychologists at the beginning of this century; and his influence undoubtedly paved the way for the sympathetic interest aroused by Freud's more startling doctrines later on. Freud himself, indeed, has more than once acknowledged the value of Havelock Ellis's pioneer work.

Unlike Freud, Ellis was more interested in collecting data than in constructing theories. The results of psychological tests were duly reported in his pages whenever they were obtainable; but since experimental work was only in its infancy when he wrote, his books will remain a collection of suggestive observations rather than of experimentally verified facts. His views on crime, on genius, on the mental differences between the sexes, though still freely quoted, can no longer be regarded as representing the results of the latest researches. Nevertheless, his lucid and delightful style, and the charm of personality that shines through it, will keep his psychological writings alive and influential when the publications of the academic psychologists of his day lie dead and forgotten.

Dr. Henry Correvon

THOUGH better known as a horticulturist than as a botanist, Henry Correvon made considerable contributions by his numerous publications to botanical science. His death in his eighty-fifth year on May 11 leaves a notable gap among the devotees of alpine plants, whom he has done so much to encourage and assist by his own enthusiastic labours.

Born at Iverdon in 1854, Correvon was educated in this little Swiss town, and, losing his father at an early age, was sent to learn horticultural practice first to Geneva, then to Zurich, Frankfort, Erfurt and finally to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, where he received botanical as well as horticultural training. Thus well equipped, he returned to Iverdon to take charge of the horticultural establishment founded by his grandfather, which had suffered greatly from the neglect of the tenant who had carried on the undertaking. Capable and energetic, Correvon commenced to work up this family heritage, but, alas, only to see most of his improvements totally destroyed by a devastating cyclone in July 1877. The low-growing alpine plants alone survived the ravages of the storm. He transferred his energies to Geneva, where he established a nursery for alpine plants, in the cultivation of which he was so successful that he ultimately purchased in 1902 a large vineyard at Chêne-Bourg high above Geneva. Here he created the wonderful garden "La Floraire" known to all cultivators of alpine gardens. To it he had transported limestone rocks from the Salève and the Jura and granite blocks from the Alps so as to have suitable surroundings for his pet plants.

Correvon's interest in these was not limited to those in his own garden. He was one of the originators of "La Linnea", the alpine garden at Bourg St. Pierre, now under the management of the University of Geneva. He was also concerned in the management of the alpine garden on the Rochers de Naye above Montreux and for a time with that above Saint-Cergue. His love for these, and other efforts for the preservation of the mountain plants, made him a prime mover in the formation of the Swiss Nature Protection Society.

Alphonse de Candolle persuaded Correvon to learn English, and for some years he acted as a correspondent of the *Garden*. In 1886 he visited England and wrote enthusiastically about some of the gardens he saw, and spoke with admiration particularly of the cultivation of the terrestrial orchids by various British horticulturists. This group of plants was particularly dear to him and led to his publication of a little book in 1893 on "Les Orchidées rustiques", followed in 1899 by his "Album des Orchidées", of which a second edition has appeared. His publications were, however, not limited to orchids. They included books on trees, ferns, flowers

of fields and forests, water and marsh plants. His book on "Rock Garden and Alpine Plants", translated from the French edition, was published in New York. His "Alpine Flora", with its wonderfully artistic representations of the plants described, appeared in an English translation in London.

Correvon was an indefatigable worker and an excellent lecturer. Ten years ago, at the age of seventy-three years, he undertook a visit to the United States, where he gave some forty lectures and addresses in English to promote the interest in alpine gardens. He was an honorary member and correspondent of many horticultural societies and was awarded an honorary doctorate of the University of Geneva in 1931.

He retained his full powers of body and mind until the end, and his beloved garden at Chêne-Bourg is assured of its continuity in the hands of his son and his grandson, both trained gardeners and possessing Henry Correvon's devotion to alpine plants.

Sir Frederick Hobday, C.M.G.

THE veterinary profession has lost a pioneer of ability with the passing of Sir Frederick Thomas George Hobday at the age of sixty-nine years on June 24.

Hobday graduated at the Royal Veterinary College in 1892. His early contributions to veterinary science were on the applied side. He was responsible for the more general use of anæsthesia in veterinary surgery, and decreased the hazard of volatile narcosis by means of inhalers, which he designed to control the depth of anæsthesia. In addition he developed methods of abdominal surgery in large animals, and successfully applied the Williams technique for the relief of roaring in horses.

Sir Frederick's real scientific achievements cannot be judged by his publications, but rather by his active and successful efforts in creating research facilities at the Royal Veterinary College, and in bringing the medical and veterinary branches of medicine into more intimate contact by the formation of the Section of Comparative Medicine in the Royal Society of Medicine. He was the first veterinary president of this section (1924–26).

In 1927, Sir Frederick was made principal of the Royal Veterinary College. He took over a college the buildings of which were in danger of collapse and the financial position of which could not have been worse. His enthusiasm enabled him to raise by voluntary subscription the sum of £135,000. This, together with a Treasury grant of £150,000, made it possible for him to realize his ambition of rebuilding the College. The new main block, housing the long-needed research and teaching facilities, was formally opened in 1937 by the King and Queen.

This ten years of strenuous endeavour drained Hobday's strength, and the unexpected termination of his principalship in 1936 came as a heavy blow both to him and to his many friends, though formal resignation was delayed until the opening ceremony. His efforts, however, had received recognition by the conferment of knighthood in 1933. He was honorary Veterinary Surgeon to Queen Alexandra, King George V, King Edward VIII and King George VI.

The Royal Veterinary College in London stands as a monument which will always be associated with his name, and those working there will be reminded that it was due to his unremitting energy that such excellent facilities are available.

J. YULE BOGUE.

Dr. W. H. Neale

DR. WILLIAM HENRY NEALE died on June 15 in his eighty-third year. He was born in Batavia, where his father, Dr. Richard Neale, was then in practice. He came to England as a boy and attended a private school at Hampstead. He studied medicine at King's College and University College, London, and took the degree of M.B. in 1879, proceeding to M.D. in 1883.

In 1880 Dr. Neale joined Mr. B. Leigh Smith as surgeon and naturalist on a sporting and exploring voyage in the steam yacht *Eira* to the then almost unknown coast of Franz Josef Land, where discoveries of considerable geographical importance were made. In 1881 Dr. Neale returned with Mr. Leigh Smith in the *Eira* on a more ambitious summer expedition to the same region, where the yacht was caught in the ice-floes and sunk close to Cape Flora.

The disaster was so sudden that very little could be saved from the wreck and the only hope of rescue was in the power of the ship's company to help themselves. A hut large enough to house the twenty-five men was built and Mr. Leigh Smith's skill as a hunter secured an adequate supply of walrus and bear meat. Dr. Neale had charge of the rationing of the food so as to preserve the health of the men, such tinned provisions as had been saved being kept for the homeward boat voyage. He was troubled by the prospect of an outbreak of scurvy in the absence of lime-juice, in which the British sailor had learned to trust as the only preventive. He found, however, that the fresh meat diet was in fact the best possible antiscorbutic, and on his return he dealt with the etiology of scurvy in several communications to the medical press, and he must be viewed as one of the first to recognize the value of fresh meat as a preventive.

The winter of 1881–82 was passed safely though the temperature sank to − 40°. When the ice began to break up at the end of June a start was made to the south in four small open boats. There were hardships in plenty and a baffling journey of more than 500 miles to be made through the shifting leads of the icefloes and in the open sea. After six weeks, the relief ship *Hope* was met on the coast of Novaya Zemlya, and the whole party were still in sound health in spite of the trying experience.

Dr. Neale studied the natural history of the Cape Flora region and described his collections in the *Proceedings* of the Zoological Society. He became a valued fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and frequently spoke after polar papers.