

have very different kinds of histories. Depigmentation has affected a number of elements of differing bony structure in north-west Europe, and the idea of a unified Nordic race belonging basically to the Baltic is almost as fantastic as the twinfancy that this Nordic race developed the essentials of European civilization and spread them from this assumed early home.

My plea is that a group of linked humane studies

based on direct observation and measurement is needed not only for specialist work but also at all stages of education, and that the group should include human geography, social anthropology, physical anthropology and archaeology, though it is obvious that one can scarcely expect any one person to cover all these specialisms. All that is needed is that they should have some common ground.

OBITUARIES

Prof. R. S. Troup, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S.

THE death of Prof. R. S. Troup on October 1, at the age of sixty-four years, removes one of the outstanding figures in the development of forestry in the Empire. He passed the competitive examination into the Royal Indian Engineering College at Coopers Hill in 1894, and ever since then his profession had been his predominant interest. Endowed with more than the usual amount of Scottish common sense and with a good deal of Aberdonian caution, his mentality was peculiarly adapted to the orderly collection and presentation of facts.

After a brilliant career at Coopers Hill, where he took a number of prizes, not only among the few forest students, but also in competition with the far more numerous students of the engineering side, in such subjects as geology and surveying, Troup went to Burma with the other four men of his year. There he started with practical experience in some of the finest and best managed forests of the Empire. His reputation had preceded him and after a few years he was called to Dehra Dun, then beginning to assume its position as the headquarters of the Indian Forest Service. From about 1904 until 1920, when he left India, he was engaged in research and administrative and scholastic work, as a teacher at the Forest College, as forest economist, as silviculturist, and finally as assistant inspector general of forests to the Government of India. These posts gave him unique opportunities not only of seeing all the finest forests in the quarter of a million square mile forest estate of the Indian Empire, but also of gaining an accurate knowledge of how this magnificent property could and should benefit the population.

Troup's own interests lay more in scientific silviculture than in the utilization side, but his early training ensured that he should fully recognize that first-class silviculture is not an end in itself but, to put it briefly, a means of obtaining the largest volume of the finest timber on a given area. Apart from a number of publications on the uses of woods and allied subjects, the principal works which he produced during his service in India were "The Silviculture of Indian Trees" in three fine volumes and "A Note on some European Sylvicultural Systems with Suggestions for Improvements in Indian Forest Management". This latter work, "the outcome of a tour

made in 1913 in certain selected forests of France and Germany", appeared in 1916, and has always seemed to the writer to be of outstanding interest. Illustrated by excellent and well-chosen photographs, a clear and vivid description is given of all the important silvicultural systems employed on the continent of Europe, and the possibility of their adaptation to the very different conditions of India and Burma is fully discussed. "Silvicultural Systems", which was published by the Clarendon Press in 1928, is an up-to-date and more generalized study of the same kind. It has been praised by Continental experts as being better than anything they have. In the work of 1916, Troup gave evidence of a very broad and catholic outlook on the main problems of Indian forestry, and established the principles on which the most important measures of progress have been based during the last twenty-five years.

Troup's greatest work, "The Silviculture of Indian Trees", appeared in 1921 and is, in his own words, "the outcome of several years of research into silvicultural problems at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and at outlying experimental stations, combined with observations recorded in many parts of India and Burma for a period extending over twenty years". The writer, having accompanied Troup on many occasions in the field, can confirm the care with which these observations were made and recorded, and can testify to the technical interest of the scholarly descriptions of the very varied types of forests in India and Burma and to the great value of the estimates of the silvicultural needs of the more important species. Constant use has been made by Indian forest officers of the information stored in these volumes, which have become standard works of reference, and contain much that was not available before.

After leaving India to succeed Sir William Schlich as professor of forestry at Oxford, Troup's interests gradually changed, and, as the result of a number of tours to various parts of the Empire, particularly Africa, he became recognized as an authority on forestry in the Colonies, and was, at the time of his death, engaged on a work on Colonial forest administration. His last publication, in 1938, was a small volume on "Forestry and State Control", which reviews the position in all the more important forest

countries of Europe, with particular reference to the urgent need for improving the private forests of Great Britain.

His devotion to his profession and his remarkable ability in summarizing clearly and fully the salient points of any forestry problem earned for Troup a unique position, and made him a worthy successor to the great men of the earlier years of Indian forestry. He was also a good 'jungle man' with a proper appreciation of life in wild places, with a keen interest in the forest flora and fauna, and, in his younger days, a great love of sport. He was a successful 'shikari' and a very good shot.

ALEXANDER RODGER.

Prof. Ricardo Jorge

PROF. RICARDO JORGE, an eminent Portuguese hygienist and medical historian, was born on May 22, 1858, at Oporto, where he received his medical education and carried out some important work on plague in conjunction with Dr. Camara Pestana. He afterwards went to Lisbon, where he was appointed director-general of public health and professor of hygiene.

In 1912 Prof. Jorge was made the delegate for Portugal in the International Office of Public Health in Paris, where he was a regular attendant at its meetings and contributed important papers to its proceedings until shortly before his death. His published work comprised a large number of subjects, such as undulant fever, tuberculosis, pellagra, lethargic encephalitis and its mental sequels, alastrim,

post-vaccinal encephalitis, epidemics on ships, especially the typhoid form of malaria and dengue, spirochætal jaundice, influenza and epidemic pleurodynia. As medical historian, he took an active part in the proceedings of the International Society of the History of Medicine, to which he contributed scholarly articles on the epidemics of the sixteenth century, the Renaissance in anatomy and medicine in Portugal, medical and scientific relations between England and Portugal and plague epidemics in Europe.

In addition to his medical activities, Prof. Jorge took a keen interest in literature, art, history, philosophy and philology, so that he has often been compared to the humanists of the Renaissance. He counted many friends in Great Britain, where he was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1938, twelve years after he had been made an honorary member of the Section of Epidemiology. One of his last writings was a sympathetic obituary notice of Sir George Buchanan, his colleague at the International Office of Public Health. His death took place on July 31 at the age of eighty-one years.

J. D. ROLLESTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Sir William Pope, K.B.E., F.R.S., professor of chemistry in the University of Cambridge, on October 17, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. W. B. Wright, late of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, author of "The Quaternary Ice Age", on October 11, aged sixty-three years.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ministry of Information

THE debate in the House of Commons last week on the Ministry of Information was announced too late for account to be taken of it in the leading article on the suggested Directorate of Scientific Information in NATURE of October 14, but there appears to have been nothing said which invalidates the comments in that article; indeed, the debate rather served to emphasize the importance of the principal points. Replying on behalf of the Government, Sir Samuel Hoare admitted that the public had lost confidence in the Ministry, and outlined the steps taken for its reorganization. Two factors have no doubt contributed largely to the difficulties of the Ministry, namely, confusion between the task of collecting information and of disseminating it, and the failure to utilize effectively organizations already in existence. The first has involved the Ministry in the difficult question of censorship and authority in relation to other Departments of State; the second has been responsible for excesses of expenditure and lapses of judgment for which the Ministry has been rightly criticized. It is not always realized that the collection of information in itself is a specialized activity. In the technical and scientific sense it is

the task of the numerous information bureaux or departments, such as various Imperial Agricultural Bureaux, those associated with different research and other associations or with individual industrial firms. Activities of this kind are to be found over the whole range of industry and science, including the social sciences. To some extent the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux serves as a clearing house in this field, and its services have already been offered to the Government. Official recognition of the vital necessity of information services and their co-ordination does not as yet appear to have been forthcoming, nor has their utilization by Government Departments and other organizations concerned with national service been encouraged, a situation which would scarcely have arisen had the Ministry been provided with adequate scientific guidance.

The collection of more general information in the sense of news is the essential task of the journalist, and some of the severest criticism of the Ministry of Information has been based on its neglect of the unrivalled experience and organization of the daily Press, both in the collection of news and in the problems involved in handling it. The statement