

spheres, and there have been numerous acknowledgments of indebtedness to his guidance and sympathy. It was his aim always to develop and never to repress the qualities he discerned in those who came under his charge, whether or not those were qualities in which he himself excelled. He leaves a widow, a daughter and a son, by whom, and by his many friends, he will be greatly missed.

HERBERT DINGLE.

Lieut.-Commander J. R. de la H. Marett

LIEUT.-COMMANDER JOHN RANULPH DE LA HAULE MARETT, R.N., of H.M.S. *Glorious*, presumed killed in action, was, like his father, Dr. R. R. Marett, rector of Exeter College, Oxford, a student of anthropology, though he approached the subject from a somewhat different angle. Like his father, however, he had a bold pioneer spirit, and was not afraid to collect and review the specialized contributions of many others with the view of showing what came of the synthesis, and what problems were raised in the whole effort to understand man, his race, culture, and environment. Like his father again, he held that all specialized contributions, including his own, must be judged in the light of their relation to the whole complex of studies. Many famous pupils of Dr. Marett will recall this constant attention to great problems and main issues, and those who knew his son, including his former teachers, will remember in him the same flair for formulating and planning the line of approach and possible solution. To the father has been given the fullness of time to show the value of his attitude to life. To the son, this longer time has been denied, but to those who knew his work, there has been ample promise of great fulfilment and much valuable and stimulating achievement.

The younger Marett served at sea during most of the War of 1914-18, and afterwards retired from the Navy to take up farming in Jersey, an island beloved by himself and his father. His main interest as a farmer was the care of a famous herd of Jersey cattle, and as editor of *The Island Cow* he contributed articles on animal genetics that attracted a good deal of attention, more particularly in America. It was this interest in genetics that brought him to Oxford, where he studied anthropology, obtaining the diploma with distinction in all subjects. Later, after a considerable amount of work elsewhere, mainly on problems of genetics, he was awarded the B.Sc. degree at Oxford, for a thesis which afterwards developed into a substantial book, entitled "Race, Sex, and Environment, a Study of Mineral Deficiency in Human Evolution" (Hutchinson 1935). Though this essay deals mainly with man, and covers a vast field, it probably grew naturally out of his earlier work on the theory that the Jersey breed of cattle is Nature's successful attempt to cope with calcium deficiency; and the same principle when extended to man suggests various lines of investigation that may well prove to be exceedingly fruitful. While it is easy for specialists in the varied fields from which he has gathered to criticize him, it must be remembered that much of his synthesis and many of his sugges-

tions are those of a pioneer in a great adventure. His attempt to synthesize work on the soil sciences with that on the ductless glands on so large a scale opens a vast unexplored country, a land of great promise.

During the last few years, Marett was conducting an ethnological survey of Ceylon for the Government, and it is to be hoped that his researches, which have resulted in a rich store of material, will some day be published.

Leaving this valuable work on the outbreak of the present War, he once more undertook active service, and now, to the best of our knowledge, has given his life for his country. While there can be no greater gift, his friends and former teachers cannot fail to regret that a life so full of brilliant promise could not have been given, in the happier times to come, to the constructive work which he was so able to do.

T. K. PENNIMAN.

Dr. E. G. C. Poole

EDGAR GIRARD CROKER POOLE was born in Limerick, the son of Major Walter Poole, R.A.M.C., and educated at Rugby and the Queen's College, Oxford, where he was mathematical scholar. He obtained both the Junior Mathematical (1911) and the Senior Mathematical (1920) University scholarships and two first classes in the school of mathematics. He was one of C. H. Thompson's most brilliant pupils. During the War of 1914-18 he served as a lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps in France. In 1920 he was elected fellow of New College and was for a time a University lecturer in mathematics. At the time of his death he was one of the editors of the *Quarterly Journal of Mathematics*.

Poole was the most learned of the Oxford mathematicians. He had a magnificent library and he constantly read very widely in all branches of pure mathematics. He was an excellent linguist also. His published papers were mainly on differential equations, an important work on which was published by the Clarendon Press in 1936. He was a good teacher and a good colleague. He was, however, ultra-sensitive and events unconnected with himself as, for example, the depression of 1931 and the bad news of this year made him utterly miserable. Despite his fine reputation for work both as a researcher and a teacher, he felt in recent months a keen sense of depression and frustration; this produced the ill-health which led to his death in tragic circumstances on June 28.

Oxford has thus lost a fine and most erudite mathematician, and his college a delightful colleague and friend. He was forty-nine years of age.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Alfred Bourne, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., formerly professor of biology in the Presidency College, Madras, on July 14, aged eighty.

Dr. W. E. Harper, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C., on June 4, aged sixty-two.