

localization of the cerebellum (1885), the physiology of fasting (1889), and human physiology (1898-1903), the latter having been translated into English, German and Spanish. He died on June 23, 1919.

#### Louis Stromeyer Little

MR. LOUIS STROMEYER LITTLE, an eminent surgeon and astronomer, was born in London on November 23, 1840, the third son of Dr. William Little, the orthopædist who gave his name to cerebral diplegia. He was educated at St. Paul's School and at Kiel and Hanover. He qualified M.R.C.S. in 1862 and the same year became assistant surgeon at the London Hospital, and later was appointed to the National Orthopædic Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children. In 1866, when an epidemic of Asiatic cholera occurred in the East End of London and application was made to the London Hospital for assistance, he took an active and successful part in its treatment by intravenous injection of saline solutions. On the outbreak of the Schleswig-Holstein War in 1864, Little first joined the Prussians, but afterwards joined the Danish forces. In 1869 he went to Shanghai where he soon acquired the best medical practice in the Far East. He also developed the knowledge of astronomy which he had acquired in London to a remarkable extent, and not only built an observatory at Shanghai, but also established the first telegraphic longitude observed in China by means of telegraphic signals with Nagasaki, 600 miles away on the opposite shore of the Yellow Sea. This achievement gained him the fellowship of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1877. After residence in China for nearly thirty years he returned to England via South Africa, where he was awarded the South African Medal for his services in the Boer War. He died on October 4, 1911.

#### Prof. Carlo Giacomini

PROF. CARLO GIACOMINI, an eminent Italian anatomist and anthropologist, was born at Sale near Alessandria on November 25, 1840. He obtained his medical qualification in 1864 at Turin, where he divided his time between anatomy and clinical medicine until 1880, when he was appointed professor of anatomy and gained a high reputation as a teacher. The classical researches with which he is connected are those on the anatomy and teratology of the brain, his method of preservation of the cerebral convolutions, the anatomy of the negro, and investigations on anomalies of development of the human embryo. He was also co-editor of *L'Observatore*. The Museum of Anatomy at Turin owes much to him for its collections. He died at Turin on July 25, 1892.

#### The Newcomen Society

ON November 13, at the Iron and Steel Institute, the Newcomen Society held its annual general meeting, and then listened to the reading of two papers. In the report of the Council for the year 1939-40, it was stated that 322 new members have been elected and the membership now stands at 1,512. The

majority of the new members are citizens of the United States. Though owing to the stress of war two London meetings were cancelled, a good series of papers were read and many other activities were carried on. The Council sent a chaplet to Handsworth Church on November 15, 1939, to mark the centenary of the death of William Murdoch, and joint action was taken with the Smeatonian Society to place a tablet in the chambers in Gray's Inn occupied by Smeaton during 1783-1793; but the completion of this memorial has had to be deferred. Among the members whose death has been recorded during the year was Mr. L. F. Loree, who is regarded as the founder of the Society in the United States. After the report had been passed, the meeting re-elected Col. C. E. Davies, of New York, for a second year as president. The papers read were respectively by Mr. E. W. Hulme and Dr. H. W. Dickinson, the latter dealing with the work of Henry Cort, the inventor of the puddling process for the manufacture of wrought iron, while Mr. Hulme's paper was entitled "Prehistoric and Primitive Iron Smelting: Part 2, The Crucible Processes of the East". It has been decided owing to the conditions prevailing that no meetings will be held in December and January, but if possible a resumption will be made in February.

#### Eradication of Bracken

BRACKEN has become an increasing menace in recent years, and vigorous efforts are being made to find cheap and efficient means for its eradication. Although systematic cutting or crushing can be entirely successful, the process is slow, about eight cuttings at the rate of two a year being required. A more rapid method of destruction is achieved by either broadcasting or spraying with sodium chlorate, but as 2 cwt. per acre is needed the cost (approximately £4 an acre) is prohibitive. Chlorate, however, is much more toxic when introduced directly into the plant, and Dr. G. H. Bates has devised a mechanical method whereby the chemical can be applied to the cut end of the bracken frond. The chlorate added in this way rapidly kills the aerial portion, and ultimately destroys the underground rhizomes of the plant; only 15-20 lb. of the chemical is required per acre.

The apparatus and method of use are described in Bulletin 14, Rubber and Agriculture Series, published by the British Rubber Publicity Association, 19 Fenchurch Street, London. Bracken crushers or cutting machines which break or bend the stem are not suited to this direct application technique, as unbroken continuity of the vessels is essential for proper penetration of the chlorate; but with hand scythes or machines with reciprocating knives it works well. A small attachment strapped to the worker's belt has been devised for use with a hand scythe. It does not weigh more than 10 lb. when filled with solution and needs only be replenished about four times daily. A rubber tube serves as a feed on to a sponge rubber pad, backed by a metal plate which is attached to the scythe blade. The rate of flow can be controlled. A somewhat similar device