

served as president of the Geologists' Association. Topley began his work on the Survey with Clement le Neve Foster, F.R.S. (1841-1904), who had studied at Freiburg, and in 1890 succeeded Sir Warrington Smyth as professor of mining at the Royal School of Mines. In 1903 Foster was knighted. The Irish chemist, Cornelius O'Sullivan (1841-1907), and the English chemist, Walter Flight (1841-85), both owed much to their contact with Hofmann, to whom they became assistants after his return to Berlin. Both were fellows of the Royal Society, but while O'Sullivan's researches were connected with the chemistry of brewing, Flight's investigations led him to the study of the

mineralogical constitution of meteorites, his work being done in a laboratory at the British Museum, where he held a post. Of the engineers born in 1841, John Donaldson (1841-99) and George Wallace Melville (1841-1912) were connected with marine engineering. Donaldson was a pupil under Rankine at Glasgow; in 1872 he joined Sir John Thornycroft at Chiswick, and was associated with the development of high-speed torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers. Melville held the high office of engineer-in-chief of the United States Navy for sixteen years, during which period the American fleet grew from an almost negligible force to one of the most powerful.

OBITUARIES

Dr. J. W. Blagden

DR. J. W. BLAGDEN died on November 28 at his home in Loughton, Essex, in his sixty-seventh year. He came from a scientific family, and was educated at Dulwich and Emmanuel College, and took an honours degree in natural science in 1895. Proceeding to Würzburg, he worked under Häntzsch, obtained his Ph.D., and after a period as senior demonstrator in electro-chemistry at Darmstadt, entered industry with C. F. Böhringer und Söhne as research chemist and departmental manager. He worked on electrolytic oxidations and reductions, and later became interested in the then new field of catalytic hydrogenations. In this, particularly in its applications to industry, he was one of the pioneer workers. The outbreak of war in 1914 put an end to his work in Germany. During the period of hostilities he was an internee at Ruhleben, where as the leader of a group he endeavoured to continue scientific work, an effort typical of a man who refused to be dismayed by difficulties. At the end of the war he returned to England and sought an opportunity to continue his work on catalysts. He joined Messrs. Howards and Sons, Ltd., in 1919 and undertook the organization and direction of a newly formed Research Department. The range of new products manufactured by the firm during the last twenty years is a tribute to the energy and skill with which he pursued the task. In 1929 he was elected a director of the Company.

Blagden was a fellow of the Institute of Chemistry and the Chemical Society, and a member of the Society of Chemical Industry. He served on a number of Committees, among which may be mentioned the Pharmacopœia Commission, the Essential Oils Committee of the Imperial Institute, Chemical Committees of the British Standards Institution and the Patents Committee of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers.

He had little desire or time for publication, and apart from a few relatively minor papers the record

of his work exists in patents and in the technical achievements of the laboratory under his direction.

Dr. Blagden was always accessible to members of his staff, and devoted much of his time to their encouragement and welfare. He felt that industry owed a debt to the universities, and was pleased to acknowledge this by both material and technical assistance whenever possible.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby

DR. C. W. SALEEBY, who died on December 9, aged sixty-six, was a popular lecturer and writer, able to put forward the views he furthered in simple direct language illuminated by apt and telling phrases. He was in particular an exponent of eugenics, in my opinion a lost cause, for the British people cannot be persuaded, and are not stimulated by family allowances by Government, to have enough children to maintain the vigour of the nation after the War. There is great doubt, too, whether eugenics, except in the case of a few rare inherited disabilities, is of any value.

A far more valuable field of Saleeby's propaganda was that of sunlight and open air as givers and restorers of health. He founded the Sunlight League, and its continuance depended mainly upon him. In the *Journal* of this League were well advocated the views he held so strongly. His own dwelling in London was contrived to secure all the benefit possible from sunlight. In his lectures he made much of Rollier's great successes in treatment of tuberculosis at the Leysin Sanatoria and the open air school run there as a prevention of disease for delicate children. In doing so Saleeby did not seem to be aware of the pioneer work of that great surgeon Oscar Bernhard at St. Moritz, who inspired the work of Rollier and whose surgical methods of wound treatment by sun and open air are of great value to-day. With the death of Saleeby an enthusiastic popular teacher has passed away.

LEONARD HILL.