

was inclined to be intolerant of those who favoured the leisurely approach and felt that a research worker should throw himself heart and soul into the struggle. His philosophy of life was that men are prevented from reaching their goal by their inability to "think and work hard enough and long enough".

During the last few years Banting had the opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with most of the active workers in medical research in Canada and of studying their methods in their laboratories. His passionate devotion to the open-minded experimental approach to medical problems and his ability to communicate his enthusiasm to other people will be dominant factors in the development of this work in Canada for many years to come.

C. H. BEST.

### Dr. J. Rendel Harris

WE regret to record the death of Dr. J. Rendel Harris, Biblical scholar, archaeologist and orientalist, which took place at Selly Oak, Birmingham, on March 1 at the age of eighty-eight years.

James Rendel Harris was born in 1852 and educated at Weymouth Grammar School and Clare College, Cambridge, of which he became a fellow and lecturer after he had graduated as Third Wrangler in 1874. Although a mathematician—he served as moderator and examiner in the Mathematical Tripos—he turned to Biblical and patristic studies, to which he became ardently devoted, rapidly attaining an outstanding position in textual criticism. In 1882 he left Cambridge for the United States, where he remained for some years, holding the chair of New Testament Greek in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and later that of Biblical languages at Haverford College, Pennsylvania.

In 1893, Harris returned to Cambridge, and for ten years he was University lecturer in palæography, travelling extensively the while in the East in search of manuscripts. His success in this field of research, combined with his profound scholarship, bore fruit in notable and lasting contributions to Biblical and Syriac studies. After a brief tenure of the professorial chair of theology at Leyden he became director of studies at the Settlement for Social and Religious Studies of the Society of Friends at Woodbrooke, near Birmingham.

At Woodbrooke, Harris continued his studies in Syriac, but turned in an increasing degree to research in anthropology and folk-lore, devoting himself more particularly to the examination of early Mediterranean cults and their relation to forms of popular and other beliefs in the Christian Church. In "The Cult of the Heavenly Twins" (1906) and "Boanerges" (1913), the former dealing with the legend of the Dioscuri, he showed, with a wealth of comparative illustration and much detached evidence, that many of the pairs of saints in the Christian calendar could be traced back to a connexion with a cult of the Great Twin Brethren. Further studies on analogous lines, issued separately, dealt with the cults of Dionysos, Apollo, Artemis and Aphrodite; two major works were "The Ascent of Olympus" and "Picus who is also Zeus".

### Prof. Richard Bär

Swiss physics and Swiss physicists suffered a severe loss, when, on December 13, 1940, Prof. Richard Bär died in his home in Zurich (where he had been professor of physics in the University)—a home whose hospitality many of his colleagues from all parts of the world will remember, having passed the friendly town on pleasure trips to the Alps and having met there not only with the friendliest reception but with one of the most distinguished of Switzerland's learned and literary circles.

Only now, after his premature death, it has been known how lavishly R. Bär had used his wealth to alleviate the lot of the distressed—in the first place of those uprooted by any kind of spiritual intolerance. He had a sort of shyness of giving and would, ostensibly, deny his assistance but send the applicants to a friend of his, pretending that his friend was in charge of an ample assistance fund (which he actually was, but the fund was supplied by R. Bär). I am told that the reception of about thirty displaced scholars at Istanbul was mainly due to R. Bär's initiative, who seized the prospect as soon as it turned up and arranged matters by a personal visit to Istanbul, to which he invited two influential friends.

To most physicists R. Bär is best known by his vigorous and fully successful attempt to disprove by clear and decisive experiments the doubts which F. Ehrenhaft (Vienna) had thrown on the reality of the "elementary quantum of electricity". The doubts were serious, and a detailed experimental refutation was needed to support our theoretical convictions. His later work included important discoveries in the domain of electrical discharge through gases, of the Raman effect and of ultra-sonic waves. It was right in the middle of very beautiful results on the latter phenomenon—diffraction of light by a liquid that is permeated by ultra-sonic waves and thereby turned into a diffraction grating—that his untimely death has occurred. To all this work of his a singular fact, which seldom occurs, gave a peculiarly inspiring tinge: he had begun as a pure mathematician (he had been David Hilbert's assistant during 1916–17) and ended up as an experimental physicist.

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. C. G. Cullis, professor of mining geology in the Royal School of Mines (Imperial College of Science and Technology), on April 27.

Mr. Francis Druce, the well-known botanist, hon. treasurer of the Royal Meteorological Society during 1913–18 and 1925–32, and of the Linnean Society during 1931–40, by enemy action.

Prof. F. Francis, emeritus professor of chemistry in the University of Bristol, on April 15.

Mr. Hans G. P. Meier, librarian of the Warburg Institute, by enemy action.

Miss J. A. Paterson, librarian of Bedford College for Women (University of London), by enemy action.