

The earliest Viking houses were oblong on plan, with rounded ends. The walls were about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. thick and the same in height, and on the top of them rested the edge of the roof of timber and turf, supported by a row of wooden posts along each side of the interior. The ordinary rooms were three in number: the dining- and living-room known as the *stofa*; the sleeping-room or *skali*; the kitchen or *eldhus*. The Shetland example was a typical long house measuring, in its original state, 95 ft. in length by 12 ft. at either end, and 18 ft. at the centre.

At Freshwick a bath house was discovered. It was a small chamber, forming a somewhat irregular square of about 5 ft., with an entrance

by a step in one side. The floor was carefully paved, except for a small area, in one corner where the fireplace had been, and which was filled with burnt broken stones and peat ash. From the floor a well-fashioned drain led through the wall of the chamber, and, continuing beneath covers along the floor of the main building, eventually discharged by way of an offset into a sump.

This was a typical vapour-bath, such as had been used in Scandinavian countries since early times, and which may still be met with there in country districts.

¹ Childe, "Prehistoric Communities", p. 183.

² Childe, *ibid.*

OBITUARIES

Dr. R. Bracher

DR. ROSE BRACHER, who died after a short illness on July 15, was born in 1894, the elder daughter of Reuben Bracher, a well-known teacher in Salisbury. She was educated in Salisbury and at the University of Bristol, where she graduated with first-class honours in botany in 1917. A year later she took her M.Sc. and then spent two years as demonstrator in the London School of Medicine for Women. The award of the Rose-Sidgwick fellowship allowed her to spend a year at Wisconsin, after which she returned to London as lecturer at East London College. In 1924 she came to Bristol to undertake research work; in 1926 she became assistant lecturer in the Department of Botany and in 1929 lecturer. In 1940 she was appointed senior lecturer—a title reserved for those who have given distinguished service to the University. A month ago she was elected a member of the Senate.

Dr. Bracher's principal scientific work was a study of the ecology of the great tidal mud-banks of the Bristol Avon and especially of the species of *Euglena*, which is the most conspicuous feature of its vegetation. *Euglena* appears on the surface and sinks into the mud with a rhythm which is largely caused by variations in illumination, and Dr. Bracher succeeded in working out in detail the part played by light and other factors in this striking phenomenon. The results were published in three distinguished papers in the *Annals of Botany* (1919), the *Journal of Ecology* (1929) and the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society* (1937). During the last ten years she was constantly engaged, along with her students, in work on the ecology of the Bristol district; the results have appeared in a series of papers of the greatest use to students of the vegetation of Somerset. As another consequence of this work she published two books, "Field Studies in Ecology" and "Ecology in Town and Classroom", which have been of especial use to teachers, showing, as they do, how interesting work

can be carried on even in very unfavourable conditions.

Dr. Bracher was an admirable teacher and her services were much in demand for extra-mural work. She had notable success in rousing to an interest in biology members of W.E.A. classes and of others of that kind. In the University she had an unrivalled knowledge of the students, their problems and difficulties, and for some years she had been warden of the Women Home Students' Society. The tragedy of her early death is felt by a wide circle of colleagues and friends.

M. SKENE.

Sir Francis Anderson

THE death is announced of Sir Francis Anderson, emeritus professor of philosophy in the University of Sydney.

Sir Francis, who was eighty-two years of age, must have been almost the last survivor of that remarkable succession of pupils of Edward Caird (professor of moral philosophy in the University of Glasgow during 1866–1894) who themselves attained eminence as professors of philosophy. After an outstanding undergraduate career, crowned in 1893 by the award of first-class honours and the Clark fellowship in mental philosophy, Anderson spent two years as Caird's assistant, two years as assistant minister of the Australian Church in Melbourne, and then started upon his long and fruitful career as a teacher of philosophy in the University of Sydney—first as lecturer, and later, from 1890 until 1922, as professor in the newly founded chair of logic and mental philosophy.

Among the distinctions which marked this period were the presidency of the Mental Science Section of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science in 1897, and the presidency of the Social Science Section in 1907. Retirement from academic duties brought no abatement in his philo-