

species, varieties and garden hybrids; and there is no doubt that he too appreciated an epicurean discussion of the virtues and failings of apples old and new. He frequently aroused the interest and envious admiration of professional and amateur fruit growers alike, less fortunate perhaps than he was in regard to frost damage to their trees, when he described the quality and quantity of the crops he gathered in his own garden.

When in South America, Sir Arthur noticed the three coloured forms of the oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*). He wished to study the relationship between the tuber colour and the structure of the flowers which proved very difficult to obtain in Great Britain, but by controlling the period of light we found it possible to obtain a few flowers at Wisley for comparison with other material grown at very high altitudes in central Europe.

During the last seven years Sir Arthur edited *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, published by the Society, thereby maintaining the tradition so firmly established by Sir Joseph Hooker during his forty years editorship. It is deeply regretted that these activities have been so tragically terminated, but one records with gratitude the high value to us of his interest and work.

M. A. H. TINCKER.

FOR nineteen years Sir Arthur Hill held with outstanding success an official position which developments of the science of botany have made very exacting. In the middle of last century the expansion of the Empire had confirmed the commanding position of Great Britain in systematic botany: Kew was its centre, and the Hookers its leading figures. But the study of botany in the universities was at a low ebb. The publication of the "Origin of Species" led to that revival of interest in the morphology and physiology of animals and plants which sprang up at South Kensington under Huxley and Thiselton-Dyer.

Hill did not himself participate in the change, for he was then too young. Even Gardiner, under whose guidance at Cambridge he acquired the finest microscopical technique, was a product rather than an agent in the revival of botanical study there in the 'seventies. Thus Hill passed on imbued with the 'new botany' already widely current. As assistant director of Kew he had under Prain an unrivalled opportunity for systematic study. The result was that, when appointed as director after Prain's retirement, he was able to give to the botanists of his time advice and help in both branches. His genial personality made him a friend to all inquirers. In fact, he was for many years an ever-ready adviser for students, whether in the garden, the laboratory or the herbarium.

Others are giving detailed accounts of Hill's life, and its widespread Imperial activities. Here a very old friend has pleasure in telling how fully he maintained the old systematic tradition of Kew, while promoting and expanding its adaptation in the widening scope of the science to meet the needs of a later time.

F. O. BOWER.

OTHERS will have expressed their appreciation of Sir Arthur Hill's eminence as a botanist; I knew him best as a man and a gardener. What was most distinctive of him was the very wide circle of friends to whom he was "Arthur". He had a gift for friendship and as his official position at Kew brought him into contact with the lovers of gardens and trees, not only in Great Britain but also all over the English-speaking world, these acquaintances ripened easily and at once into something warmer and more intimate.

He knew plants as few men did; he appreciated their points of interest and he liked to draw others into his own appreciations; I remember him perhaps at his happiest when at certain dinners, where gardeners or men of science met to exchange experiences, he was explaining the special features of things he had brought from Kew. This ease of intercourse was of great value to him officially. As a Government Department Kew Gardens belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture, its expenditure requires the sanction of the Treasury, its buildings, glass houses and the like have to be dealt with by the Office of Works. It is easy for any of these great offices to adopt an unsympathetic attitude to a relatively small spending organization which does not lie within the great stream of public affairs; but Hill's tact and friendliness smoothed the way to many improvements in the Gardens and in the conditions of work of its extensive staff.

Hill's contacts with gardening were many and various; he was closely associated with the Royal Horticultural Society, from the council of which he only retired to edit on their behalf *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, that record of new plants running back for more than a century and a half. He was long a member of the council of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, in the affairs of which his quiet judgment was always of value. No record of Hill would be complete that ignored his devotion to the Church and its social work; my last business with him was concerned with the education of two boys in difficult circumstances who had been brought to his notice through the Church.

Hill was not a player of games, his recreations were conversation and riding, and if the latter did bring him down at last, his end came instantaneously in the full tide of his enjoyment—and what better end can any man desire?

A. D. HALL.

ONE evening early in 1907 Arthur Hill called at my house in Cambridge to discuss the prospects of an appointment of which he had just heard. The post in question was that of assistant director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in itself an attractive one; but Hill was much attached to Cambridge and to King's, and the thought of leaving was disturbing. I knew of these Cambridge attachments, but I knew, too, something of the prospects offered by Kew under Sir David Prain, then recently returned from India, and I had no hesitation in strongly advising Hill to accept the London post.