

the case, should send the name and address to the Ministry of Health with all available particulars. All practical assistance is given by expert officers of the department to medical officers of health and medical practitioners in any case in which indigenous malaria is suspected. Blood films and other specialized examinations are arranged for.

The malarial work of the Ministry of Health was afterwards augmented by the provision of a malarial laboratory and centre at Horton Mental Hospital, Epsom, on the suggestion of Lieut.-Colonel S. P. James. The primary object of this unit was to provide treatment for general paralysis of the insane by induced malaria as initiated by Wagner-Jauregg of Vienna. The Board of Control, the London County Council and the authorities of Horton Hospital are closely associated with the Ministry in this work. The laboratory portion of the unit was under the control of Colonel James and afterwards under that of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Sinton, assisted by Mr. P. G. Shute and laboratory assistants, while Dr. W. D. Nicol, medical superintendent of Horton Hospital, is in charge of the clinical side of the work. The unit further acts as a centre for the study and identification of mosquito nuisances in Great Britain, and a number of important papers and reports on the subject have been published by James, Nicol and Shute. Mr. Shute has paid visits to many districts in Great Britain and has advised on the control of Anophelines.

With all this administrative and scientific machinery to hand, it can be confidently anticipated that the Ministry of Health will safeguard the population of Great Britain against the risks of an increase of indigenous malaria after the present War as successfully as it did after the War of 1914-18.

<sup>1</sup> Reports and Papers on Malaria contracted in England in 1918. Reps. to L.G.B. (N.S. No. 123.) (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1919.) See also P. G. Shute: "Protracted Incubation Periods in Indigenous Cases of Malaria in England", *J. Trop. Med. and Hyg.* (July 15, 1939).

<sup>2</sup> Shute, P. G., "Failure to Infect English Specimens of *Anopheles maculipennis* var. *atroparvus* with Certain Strains of *Plasmodium falciparum* of Tropical Origin", *J. Trop. Med. and Hyg.* (July 1, 1940).

<sup>3</sup> Sinton, J. A., and Shute, P. G., "Memorandum on Measures for the Control of Mosquito Nuisances in Great Britain". Memo. 238/Med. Ministry of Health. Revised Edn. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1943.)

## OBITUARIES

### Major Leonard Darwin

WITH the death of Leonard Darwin on March 26, in the ninety-fourth year of his age, has passed the last of the five sons born to Charles Darwin. Taking the five sons in the order of their birth, William, the eldest, showed no aptitude for science; the second, George, the third, Francis, and the fifth, Horace, were gifted with creative faculties of a high order, all three becoming fellows of the Royal Society. Leonard, who came fourth in the series (he was born at Down House on January 15, 1850), although he did much to further the cause of science, manifested none of those creative gifts which had been so liberally bestowed on his father and three brothers. Yet, in physical appearance, especially in later years when he grew a beard, in his attitude to life, and in the disposition of his mind, he bore a closer resemblance to his father than did any of his brothers. He had his father's honesty of expression, openness of mind, charitable disposition, subjugation of self,

an excess of candour ("d—d candour" his father named it on a certain occasion when irritated by unfair criticism) and also his father's happy sense of humour. He was completely devoid of personal ambition. There were not a few, however, who were ambitious on his behalf and felt that his services to science should have been recognized by election to the Royal Society. The University of Cambridge rightly bestowed on him an honorary doctorate of science.

In 1868, at the age of eighteen, Leonard entered Woolwich, being second on the list at the entrance examination, a success which made his father exclaim: "I shall burst with pleasure at Leonard's success!" He served with the Royal Engineers for twenty years, retiring in 1890 on attaining his majority. During this time he was a member of two expeditions sent to observe the transit of Venus—in New Zealand (1874) and in Queensland (1882)—but for the greater part of his service he was engaged in the routine of office work or of acting as instructor at various staff colleges.

On retiring from the Army, Leonard Darwin entered public life, being elected Liberal Unionist member for the Lichfield Division of Staffordshire in the Anti-Home Rule election of 1892. In the election which followed three years later, he lost his seat and eventually retired from politics. Perhaps no one was less fitted for the rough and tumble of political life than Leonard Darwin. He was completely devoid of the "Party spirit". He looked on politics as the art of applying science to the problems of government. We see the trend of his mind at this time, in two publications which he issued at the close of his brief political career—on "Bimetallism" (1898), and on "Municipal Trading" (1903). He served (1913-20) as chairman of Bedford College for Women.

His real work in life came to him in 1911 on the death of his distinguished cousin, Sir Francis Galton. Galton had founded the Eugenics Society in 1908 (by the way, it is just sixty years since Galton coined the term 'eugenics'), and served as its honorary president until his death in 1911. Thereupon Leonard Darwin fathered the Eugenics Society, and continued to devote all his energies to promoting its welfare until 1929, when the late Sir Bernard Mallet took over the presidency, while Darwin continued to serve the Society as its honorary president. His attitude towards eugenics is given in detail in a book published in 1926, entitled "Need for Eugenic Reform".

In 1928 he withdrew from London, making his home at Cripps Corner, on the western outskirts of Ashdown Forest. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth Fraser, who died in 1898, and later to his cousin, Charlotte Mildred Langton, who died at Cripps Corner in 1940. There were no children by either marriage. Those who had the privilege of visiting at Cripps Corner carried away unforgettable memories of human life at its best.

ARTHUR KEITH.

### Mr. H. D. Taylor

HAROLD DENNIS TAYLOR, a quiet man of simple tastes, varied interests, and wide knowledge, died on February 26, aged eighty-one. Probably best known as the inventor of the Cooke lens, he achieved much else that would have brought him fame.

Taylor was educated at St. Peter's School, York, and began to train as an architect, but was offered employment at the works of Thomas Cooke and Sons, scientific and surveying instrument makers, on