

Turning then to M. Boutry, Prof. Andrade said : "Au nom de la Physical Society je vous prie de bien vouloir saluer de notre part nos camarades de la Société française de Physique et de leur dire combien nous regrettons le lamentable sort de nos frères, victimes du maudit système Nazi, ou plutôt allemand, combien nous espérons voir renaître dans toute sa gloire traditionnelle et la France et la physique française. Nous avons remarqué avec la plus vive émotion comment, au milieu de tant de dangers et de difficultés, les physiciens français ont continué leurs travaux désintéressés. Tout ce que la Physical Society peut faire pour encourager et appuyer nos collègues, nos amis français, soyez assuré que ce sera fait. C'est pour nous un très grand bonheur de pouvoir désormais renouveler nos cordiales et traditionnelles relations avec la Société française de Physique. Cher collègue, soyez le bienvenu."

In the course of his reply, Prof. Boutry said that Langevin is alive and well.

OBITUARIES

Sir John Ledingham, C.M.G., F.R.S.

SIR JOHN LEDINGHAM, emeritus professor of bacteriology in the University of London and a former director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, died in London on October 4 after a brief illness. John Charles Grant Ledingham—"a son of the manse"—was born in 1875, his father, the Rev. John Ledingham, being the minister of Boyndie, Banffshire. He was educated at Boyndie Public School, Banff Academy, and the University of Aberdeen, where he achieved many successes including the Simpson and Arnott Prizes and the Anderson Scholarship. He graduated with first-class honours in mathematics and physics, obtaining the B.Sc. degree with distinction. After a brilliant career in the Faculty of Medicine he obtained the M.B. degree with honours in 1902. Postgraduate study at the University of Leipzig and at the London Hospital followed, and in 1905 he joined the staff of the Lister Institute, being appointed assistant bacteriologist at Elstree and afterwards to the main institute at Chelsea. In 1909 he succeeded George Dean as chief bacteriologist, and on the retirement of Sir Charles Martin in 1930 he was appointed director of the Lister Institute.

During his tenure of the directorship of the Lister Institute, one of the most responsible posts in preventive medicine, Ledingham proved himself to be an able administrator and supervisor of research, while finding time to pursue his own researches on experimental studies of viruses and virus diseases. His investigations regarding the elementary bodies from vaccinia and smallpox material were a notable contribution to this subject. Later he studied the morphology and conditions of growth of the organisms of pleuro-pneumonia and allied conditions. Earlier in his career he carried out studies on the causation of purpura haemorrhagica in man, on the mechanism of phagocytosis and on the epidemiology of the typhoid carrier state. He retired from the directorship of the Lister Institute in 1943. The University of London in 1920 had granted him the title of professor of bacteriology and, after his retirement, the title of emeritus professor was conferred on him in the present year.

During the War of 1914–18, Ledingham was in charge of the Bacteriological Department of King George Hospital and served afterwards in the Royal Army Medical Corps, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, as member of the Medical Advisory Committee in the Mediterranean area and as consulting bacteriologist to the Forces in Mesopotamia. For these services he received the C.M.G. in 1918. He was elected to a fellowship of the Royal Society in 1921 and was knighted in 1937. He received the honorary degree of LL.D. from his own University of Aberdeen and also the honorary degree of doctor of science from the Universities of Dublin and Leeds. He was appointed a member of the Medical Research Council in 1934 and served on many expert scientific committees, being chairman of the Tropical Diseases Research Committee of the Medical Research Council and the Royal Society and a member of the War Wounds Committee in the present War. He was chairman of the British National Committee of the International Association of Microbiologists, president of the Second International Congress for Microbiology which was held in London in 1936 and was an honorary president of the Third (New York) Congress in 1939. He was largely instrumental in the formation of the National Collection of Type Cultures, sponsored by the Medical Research Council and domiciled at the Lister Institute, and was its director from its inception in 1920 until his appointment as director of the Lister Institute.

Some thirty papers were published under Ledingham's name or in collaboration with others during the period 1920–43; one of his outstanding achievements being a book written jointly with Sir Joseph Arkwright entitled "The Carrier Problem in Infectious Diseases", which was published in 1912. He was a noteworthy contributor to, and an associate editor of, the "System of Bacteriology" in nine volumes published by the Medical Research Council in 1930–31, as well as to the Council's "Treatise on Diphtheria". In 1924 he delivered the Harben Lectures in London and in 1934 the Herter Lectures at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Sir John Ledingham married in 1913 Barbara, daughter of David Fowler. They had two children, a son and a daughter, both of whom are following the discipline of medicine. His scientific attainments were of a high order; his life was dedicated to scientific research, and by precept and example he stimulated enthusiasm in others. His kindly and unassuming nature endeared him to colleagues and associates, and above all to those who were honoured by his personal friendship. R. ST. JOHN-BROOKS.

We regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. G. D. Birkhoff, Perkins professor of mathematics in Harvard University, on November 12, aged sixty.

Prof. D. M. Blair, regius professor of anatomy in the University of Glasgow, on November 10, aged forty-eight.

Prof. R. J. Rowlette, King's professor of materia medica and pharmacy in the School of Physic, Trinity College, Dublin, and president during 1940–43 of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, on October 13, aged seventy-one.

Prof. F. J. Wilson, Freeland professor of chemistry, Royal Technical College, Glasgow, on October 18, aged sixty-four.