

Dr. G. L. Taylor

THE untimely death of George Lees Taylor at the age of forty-eight has robbed medicine and genetics of an able and industrious worker who had made notable contributions in this field. Born in 1897 at Ashton-under-Lyne, the son of Albert Taylor, he graduated in medicine at the University of Manchester in 1920 after a distinguished undergraduate career. After two years of resident hospital appointments, Taylor spent seven years in general practice, but in 1929, when the chance occurred to become John Lucas Walker Student with Prof. H. R. Dean at Cambridge, Taylor decided to abandon practice and to devote himself to teaching and research. During the next six years Taylor's work was chiefly serological, and he published a series of ten papers on precipitin reactions which established his reputation for painstaking and consistently sound work. During this time he was awarded the M.D. with commendation (Manchester) and the Ph.D. (Cambridge).

When, in 1935, the Rockefeller Foundation enabled the Galton Laboratory, University College, London, to establish a special department for the study of blood groups in relation to human genetics, Taylor was ripe to take charge of this work, and he threw himself into it with characteristic zeal and determination. Detailed study of the blood groups and their genetics had received but little attention in Great Britain, and Taylor had first to establish reliable methods and criteria for the *A*, *B*, *O* groups, the *M* and *N* factors and such other blood group factors as had been described elsewhere. To widen his experience he studied for a time in Denmark with Friedenreich, and during 1935-39 he busied himself with the distribution of blood groups in Great Britain and with investigations upon rare human anomalies such as Huntington's chorea and acholuric jaundice.

At the outbreak of war Taylor at once took charge of the Galton Serum Unit established in the Department of Pathology, Cambridge, to provide adequate

supplies of reliable grouping serum for war purposes, and it is scarcely too much to say that the swift development of reliable Blood Transfusion Services throughout Great Britain would scarcely have been possible without the help so freely and willingly given to all by Taylor and his staff. As a result of his carefully standardized testing sera, reliable blood grouping results were placed within the reach of all services and hospitals; the volume of serum thus dispensed involved Taylor in a constant struggle to maintain adequate supplies of standard reagents—a work ungrudgingly pursued, the difficulties of which are often inadequately recognized. In spite of so much daily routine, Taylor continued his scientific work and was able to publish a further series of papers on the distribution of blood groups and subgroups in Great Britain based on a very much larger number of tests performed in the Transfusion Services. Taylor was quick to appreciate the scientific importance of the *Rh* factor, and his appeal with Mollison for samples of blood from the mothers of babies with erythroblastosis met with an excellent response which enabled him to pursue this subject so vigorously that within less than two years he and his collaborators had described seven allelomorphs of the *Rh* factor and four different types of anti-*Rh* serum. These results were obtained quite independently of simultaneous studies in America by Wiener, Levine and others, but the work of Taylor and his associates provided a welcome clarification of the confused state of American terminology, and Taylor's name will always be associated with the classification of the allelomorphs of the rhesus factor.

G. L. Taylor was a quiet, unassuming man, always ready to give his time to smoothing away the difficulties of others in what was an abstruse and difficult field. His friendly, helpful personality endeared him to a wide circle of friends, by whom he will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Taylor and her young daughter.

D. F. CAPPELL.

NEWS and VIEWS

Colonial Microbiological Research Institute

THE Colonial Office announces that it has been decided to establish in Trinidad a Colonial Microbiological Research Institute, for the general study of microbiological problems in tropical conditions. The Institute will be under the general supervision of the Colonial Products Research Council, and will be financed from funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940. The first director of the Institute will be Dr. A. C. Thaysen, of the Chemical Research Laboratory, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He has been responsible there for the fundamental work on which the food yeast factory, now in course of erection in Jamaica, has been planned. Dr. Thaysen is leaving at once from Trinidad to discuss the siting and construction of the Institute's laboratories and connected matters. It is hoped that, when the Institute is under way, it will be possible to afford facilities for postgraduate work by visiting men of science in addition to the work of the staff of the Institute itself (see also p. 564 of this issue).

Scientific Activities in Paris

DURING the past few months, a few men of science in France have been able to visit Great Britain and to take up again the threads of scientific intercourse. Now we are able to welcome the re-appearance of *La Nature*, the well-known popular journal of science and its applications, after three years of suppression. The first issue, dated January 1, 1945, consists of only sixteen pages, and it is shorn of its attractive cover, but it contains well-illustrated articles on penicillin and its manufacture and on the solar corona, and a useful map of French broadcasting stations with data of their wave-lengths, powers, etc. The Editor announces that the journal will be devoted, as before the War, to the popularization of science, its applications, its methods and its significance for human progress. Later issues are equally attractive, the articles being well illustrated and maintaining a nice balance between pure science and its applications. *La Nature* is being published twice a month at 10 francs a copy. Another sign of increasing scientific activity in Paris is a comprehensive programme of