

OBITUARIES

Prof. Samuel J. Record

THE death on February 3 of Samuel Record at the age of sixty-three will be keenly felt by people all over the world who are interested in wood, for, if the name of any one individual deserves to be specially associated with the great revival of interest in wood anatomy during the past quarter of a century, it is his. He very early realized the possibilities of the then unknown woody species of the tropics and the fundamental importance of the wood sample backed by adequate herbarium material. When, therefore, he was appointed professor of forest products at Yale in 1917, he set out to build up a collection of timbers that was to become by far the most important collection in the world. What was perhaps equally important was that he deliberately aimed at making the collection available to any genuine research worker in any part of the world. A deep and sincere desire to further the general cause of wood anatomy in any way that he could was characteristic of him, and partly explains his world-wide popularity. Much that he did to this end by means of encouragement and advice must disappear with him; but he leaves as more permanent memorials at least two of the instruments he used for carrying out this policy, the journal *Tropical Woods*, which he founded in 1925 and edited until he died, and the International Association of Wood Anatomists, for the creation of which he was very largely responsible and of which he was the first secretary-treasurer.

Record was an indefatigable worker, with a flair for seeing what most needed doing and an exceptional capacity for getting it done, either by his own labours or by interesting others. As examples of these talents one may cite first his books on the timbers of tropical America, the first of which, written with C. D. Mell and published in 1924, marked a tremendous stride forward in knowledge of the trees and the timbers of this vast area, and secondly the standardization of the terms used in wood anatomy, for which he was largely responsible as chairman of the committee of the International Association of Wood Anatomists that ultimately achieved this end. He was always specially interested in the taxonomic aspects of wood anatomy, and his exceptionally wide knowledge of woods enabled him from time to time to make striking suggestions, particularly with regard to the position or affinities of individual genera or the botanical identity of timbers previously known only by their vernacular names, such as the tulipwood of Brazil.

Record was educated at Wabash College, where he obtained the M.A. degree and where he was later, in 1930, given an honorary doctorate in science. In 1905 he took the degree of master of forestry at Yale University and entered the U.S. Forest Service. In 1910 he went back to Yale and joined the forestry faculty. In 1917 he became professor of forest products and in 1939 Pinchot professor of forestry and dean of the School of Forestry. L. CHALK.

It is now nearly twenty-five years since I started a most interesting correspondence with Samuel J. Record. The correspondence continued without interruption until the end of January this year, when I received his last letter. He had mentioned his plans after his retirement from the University, which he said would be in June—how he was anticipating hav-

ing time for further research and the writing of a new book, and both he and I were looking forward to his expected visit to London, when we could again discuss matters relating to forestry, nomenclature, identification of timbers, and other subjects of mutual interest. We had much friendly controversy on these subjects, but generally our conclusions coincided. His energy and great knowledge, and the fact that he had at hand the very exhaustive collection of specimens of wood (more than thirty thousand) at Yale University, the accumulation of which was largely due to his personal efforts, was a great advantage, and from him I gained much useful information.

It was not only in his professional capacity that he excelled: he had wide interests, an active and tireless brain, a keen and subtle sense of humour; and I shall always remember with pleasure the long personal talks which cemented our friendship on the two occasions when he visited Britain.

His work "Timbers of Tropical America", the quarterly journal *Tropical Woods* of which he was editor, and many others were invaluable, but his outstanding work, "Timbers of the New World", provides much needed authoritative information about the woods and forests of Brazil and southern America, and is of surpassing value to the student of forestry and botany.

His sudden death at such a comparatively early age is a great loss, not only to his friends, but also to the world in general. ALEXANDER L. HOWARD.

Colonel M. J. Godfery

WE regret to record the death at Torquay on April 9 of Colonel Masters John Godfery.

Colonel Godfery was a leading authority on European and especially British orchids. He carried out much research work in some of the more critical genera, including *Epipactis* and *Ophrys*. He contributed many papers to botanical journals, and in 1933 published his sumptuous "Monograph of Native British Orchidaceae", illustrated in colour by his wife. It will long remain the standard work on the group in Great Britain.

Colonel Godfery's most striking research related to the pollination of species of the genus *Ophrys*, much of which was carried out by watching cut flowers in vases on hotel verandahs in the Mediterranean region. He was able to confirm the observation, first made by M. Pouyanne of Algiers, that certain species are pollinated by the males of insects which mistake the lip of the orchid for the female and, in performing the motions of fertilization on the lip, effect the pollination of the orchid. The male insects pay attention to the orchid lips only during a short period before the females emerge from their pupæ; thereafter the orchid lips are left alone. This astonishing relationship between insect and flower has since been discovered also in an unrelated Australian orchid.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Stanley Wells Kemp, F.R.S., secretary of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom and director of its Plymouth Laboratory, on May 16, aged sixty-two.

Prof. P. Pelseneer, honorary permanent secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium.