OBITUARIES

Dame Ethel Shakespear, D.B.E.

ETHEL MARY READER WOOD was the youngest daughter of the Rev. Henry Wood, and was born at Biddenham, near Bedford, in July 1871; there her early years were spent, until she became a pupil at the Bedford High School for Girls, whence in due course she passed on to Newnham College to continue her scientific studies in the University of Cambridge. It was there that she came under the influence of Hughes and Marr, and took up the study of geology with characteristic energy, finding particular interest and pleasure in those field excursions to different parts of the country which were such a feature of Hughes' teaching.

At Newnham began our life-long friendship; together we attended geological classes, and in our vacations on bicycles or on foot visited and studied many localities of special geological interest. While still students we jointly undertook a small piece of research on the fauna of some Lake District rocks, at Marr's request, the results being published in the *Geological Magazine*, 1895. We both chose geology for our special subject for Part 2 of the Tripos, and both were placed in Class I. We were both awarded research studentships by Newnham College and carried out the work on the Llandovery and associated rocks of Conway (*Quart. J. Geol. Soc.*, 1896). Then we separated. Ethel Wood went to Birmingham as research assistant to Prof. Charles Lapworth, a post she held until her marriage in 1906. Lapworth at this time was much overworked, as his advice and counsel on innumerable geological problems was much sought, and that he was able to cope with the work at all was in no small measure due to the capable assistant at his side. She did great work for geology in that capacity. She was herself a research worker of a high order, and was responsible for three pieces of geological work of outstanding merit: "The Lower Ludlow Formation and its Graptolite Fauna", "The Tarannon Series of Tarannon", and jointly with Prof. Lapworth and G. L. Elles the "Monograph of British Graptolites". It should, I think, be noted that while the inspiration of that work in almost every detail was Lapworth's, much of the 'spade work' fell upon his two subordinates, and it was often heavy. The nomenclature of the graptolites at that time was in such a parlous state that few records could be accepted; not only had public and private collections to be examined, but also innumerable localities had to be visited, and the results studied in the light of recent work by Lapworth and themselves. Much of this work was carried out together, and though it was strenuous the congenial companionship of those days of field work is a treasured memory. The actual publication of the main part of the "Monograph" was spread out over the years 1901-14, and later Lapworth added another part in 1918. Years of preparation had, however, preceded any publication, so that this work occupied a large part of our lives.

Her two other papers appeared just before, and during, the publication of the early parts of the "Monograph", and though complete in themselves, afford excellent examples of the research undertaken in preparation for the larger work. The Ludlow paper gave a wonderful stimulus to workers on the Lower Palaeozoic rocks, for it not only showed the value of the correct use of graptolites, but also

demonstrated in the clearest manner how even the most monotonous rocks may be subdivided and classified by the graptolite assemblages they contain, and that these subdivisions can be mapped. The value of this paper was recognized by the Geological Society by the award to her of the Wollaston Fund. A little later, having devoted the greater part of four years to the work, she published the Tarannon paper while holding a research scholarship from the University of Birmingham. This paper is virtually a small monograph on the Tarannon Beds; in it, by the utilization of the graptolites, the true nature of these rocks was first made clear, their faunal sequence demonstrated, and much stratigraphical confusion set right.

In 1905 she was elected an associate of Newnham College and in 1906 she took her D.Sc. (Birmingham). Then came her marriage to Dr. G. A. Shakespear, lecturer in physics at the University. She relinquished her post there, but continued her work for the "Monograph". The only child of the marriage was a daughter, who died in infancy.

During the First World War, she was drawn into public life by her deep concern for the welfare of the disabled soldiers, and from 1915 onwards she worked untiringly on their behalf to secure adequate pensions, treatment and training for discharged Servicemen. In this connexion she helped to found the Association of War Pension Committees in London and became its honorary secretary. In 1917 she was appointed a member of the Special Grants Committee of the Ministry of Pensions and served on it until 1926. She also served on the Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield War Pensions Committee for several years. Her services received recognition by the award of the M.B.E. in 1918, and two years later she became a dame of the Order.

In 1920 she was awarded the Murchison Medal by the Council of the Geological Society of London in recognition of the value of her scientific work, and the president of the Society expressed the hope that when her strenuous work for the State was lightened, she would again take up her geological work that was so valuable. Unfortunately for geology, that time never came. Public work of all kinds still pressed its claims upon her, and in 1922 she became a justice of the peace for Birmingham, an office in which her wide sympathy and sane judgment proved invaluable. This is not the place to write of her manifold interests in women's work; that must be dealt with elsewhere.

In 1929 Dame Ethel and her husband found in a beautiful old Worcestershire farmhouse (Caldwell Hall) 'the home of dreams come true', and for the rest of her life, her garden there and the old house were an endless joy. It had not originally been their intention to farm the land attached to the house, but circumstances necessitated that they should do so. So 'Dame Ethel' became 'Farmer Ethel', and with characteristic vigour devoted her energies to the study of the various features of a farmer's life. She still went regularly to Birmingham to sit on the bench and to attend to the other social activities in which her interest was as keen as ever. The peaceful life to which she had looked forward was never hers. With the outbreak of the Second World War she at once responded to the call to service, and in spite of the depletion of her staff, she shouldered all the responsibilities of the extra work on the farm demanded by the stern mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture. The amount of work she managed to get through in a single day at that time was amazing

and far more than a woman of her age should have attempted; but she would not and, indeed, could not ease up; there is no respite for a farmer in war-time. In the last year, when her head man was away ill for months, she still managed to carry on. It wore her out. She had served her generation in so many ways to the utmost of her powers, that when illness struck her, she was left with too little strength to fight for herself.

So this great-hearted woman became a war casualty, laying down her life for her country in the Battle of the Home Front. G. L. ELLES.

Prof. Jan Florian

It is with feelings of deep regret that we have to record the death at the hands of the Gestapo of the distinguished Czech embryologist, Prof. Jan Florian, dean of the Medical Faculty in the Masaryk University, Brno, on May 7, 1942. By his researches on early human embryos, Prof. Florian had established for himself an international reputation as an embryologist and had made many friends among the anatomists in England and other allied countries.

The following notice is contributed by his teacher and friend, Prof. F. K. Studnička, of the Charles University, Prague.

During the first year of their occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, the Germans closed all the universities and colleges, seven in number, and subjected their staffs to the harshest treatment. Many of them were sent to concentration camps and died there; others were executed. The Masaryk University at Brno was especially brutally treated. The institutes were looted and some twenty members of the staff were murdered, among them Jan Florian.

Florian was born in Brno in 1897. He served as a conscript in the Austrian Army throughout the First World War, and in 1919, when the Masaryk University was founded, he was among its first medical students. In 1923 he graduated M.D. and became assistant in the Institute of Histology and Embryology. In 1928, he was admitted *Docent*, and in 1933 was appointed professor of histology and embryology in the Comenius University, Bratislava. Eventually he returned to Brno as professor in succession to me.

Early in his career, Florian became interested in embryology, and with the help of Dr. O. Bittmann succeeded in forming a fine collection of well-preserved human developmental material. He devoted himself to the study of the early stages in his collection and, in papers published between 1927 and 1930, added much to our knowledge of early human development. We need only mention here his work on embryos Bi I (1927) and TF (1928) and his redescription of the Fetzer embryo, with Fetzer (1930), and the Beneke embryo, with Beneke (1930-31).

In the years succeeding 1930, Florian, with the aid of grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, was enabled to spend several long periods of study-leave at University College, London, where as honorary research assistant he continued his investigations. He participated actively in the meetings of the Anatomical Society and contributed several valuable papers to its *Journal*, and he also collaborated with Prof. J. P. Hill in the description of an early human embryo (1931) and in a study of early embryonic stages of *Tarsius*. He was co-author, with Prof. Frankenberger, of a text-book of embryology, the

first to be published in the Czech language, and author of a popular work entitled "From Protozoon to Man" (also in Czech).

Florian was an excellent mathematician, and utilizing the principles of projective geometry, he perfected a method of graphic reconstruction which has proved of great value in the interpretation of serial sections of embryos in which the sectional plane is oblique to the median plane of the embryo. He also designed an improved type of micro-manipulator.

In 1938, Florian was elected a member of the Institut International d'Embryologie, an honour he greatly appreciated. In 1939, he was appointed dean of the Medical Faculty in the Masaryk University, but he had barely assumed the duties of the office when, in November of that year, the universities were closed by the Nazis. Florian for a while tried to carry on with his work, and at the same time was active in alleviating the hardships of the families of those who had been persecuted. Eventually in October 1941 he himself was imprisoned by the Gestapo, at first in Brno, but at the end of January 1942 he was deported to the notorious concentration camp of Mauthausen, near Linz. There he was kept in solitary confinement, tortured and finally shot on May 7, along with seventy-six other prisoners.

Such was the end of an ardent and noble-hearted patriot and a gifted man of science. His death at the early age of forty-five is an irreparable loss to his beloved country and to the science he did so much to advance. F. K. STUDNIČKA.

Mr. J. H. Driberg

THE death of Mr. Jack Herbert Driberg on February 5 will come as a shock to his many friends and admirers. Born in April 1888, he was educated at Lancing College and Hertford College, Oxford, and in 1912 joined the Uganda Administration, spending nine years in it before he was transferred to the Sudan Political Service, from which he was invalided on pension in 1925. In 1923 he had written his well-known book, "The Lango: A Nilotic Tribe of Uganda", and thus established his claim as an anthropologist, and, after a training in the London School of Economics, was appointed to a lectureship in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. He held this post until the outbreak of the War in 1939, when he resigned and volunteered for war-work and was posted to the Near East; at the time of his death he was concerned with Middle East affairs in the Ministry of Information.

Driberg was a man of exceptional ability, and on the sound foundation of Greats at Oxford, developed a keen sense of the right word and turn of phrase which made his "People of the Small Arrow" (1930) and "Ngato, the Lion Cub" (1933), to mention only two of his works, such delightful reading. As a teacher he was inspiring, and devoted much time to helping his students. His appreciation of the value of anthropology to administrators in the Colonial Service, gained by his experience in Uganda and the Sudan, did much to inspire Colonial probationers who attended his lectures and talked with him in his rooms with the practical value of the science in relation to their future work, and seeds were sown in successive generations of probationers which to-day are bearing fruit.

He was a good linguist and spoke a number of African languages, and this, coupled with his magnificent physical strength and power of endurance,