

Brahmachari entered the provincial (Bengal) medical service in 1898, and his outstanding abilities soon attracted attention, so that at an early date he was appointed teacher in pathology and materia medica at the Dacca Medical School, and shortly afterwards teacher of medicine at the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta. During the twenty years that he held this post he did his best work. When he retired from the provincial medical service he became physician to the Medical College Hospitals and later professor of tropical medicine at the Carmichael Medical College, Calcutta.

Not inappropriately, Brahmachari's main interest was kala-azar. He was a Bengali, and in his early days of practice this disease was probably killing an average of at least 100,000 of his countrymen each year. There was at that time no specific treatment, and a 95 per cent death-rate was claimed for the disease. Intravenous tartar emetic in the treatment of kala-azar was first used in India in 1915 by Sir Leonard Rogers and Dr. E. Muir, and Brahmachari immediately saw the possibilities of developing the chemotherapeutic use of antimony. His first attempts were to prepare antimony analogues of the then comparatively new arsphenamine group of drugs. These were not very successful, and he soon turned his attention to the pentavalent antimonials, especially the *para*-amino-phenyl stibinic acid group that Prof. Hans Schmit was developing so successfully in Germany. One of his earliest successful preparations was 'urea stibamine'. He worked for many years with a grant from the Indian Research Fund Association, but later when he had accumulated considerable wealth—a by-product of his medical research work—he financed his own researches.

Brahmachari's contributions to medical literature were very numerous. He published at an early date a useful book on kala-azar that went through several editions in India and formed the basis of his most important book, "A Treatise on Kala-azar", published in London in 1928. He contributed the chapter on kala-azar in Mense's "Handbuch der Tropenkrankheiten" and that on infantile biliary cirrhosis in the "British Encyclopædia of Medical Practice". In addition to the numerous medals and prizes that he won in his early days, he was awarded the Sir William Jones Medal by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Minto Medal; the latter is presented by the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine to an Indian who has done outstanding medical research work during the year.

His interest in medical education and scientific research was reflected in the numerous important posts that he held; among these were dean of the faculty of medicine, dean of the faculty of science, and president of the board of studies of medicine, of the University of Calcutta, vice-president of the governing body of the Presidency College and vice-president of the National Institute of Sciences of India; president of the Indian Science Congress in 1936 and president of the medical section on two other occasions, and president of the Royal Asiatic Society for three terms. He was also vice-president of the Indian Red Cross Society and of the St. John's Ambulance Association, Bengal Provincial Centre. Official recognition of his services has been marked by the presentation of the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal and the conferment of the title of Rai Bahadur early in his career, and later by a knighthood.

Few Indians have done more to further medical research in India than Sir Upendranath. His success

with urea stibamine was an example and encouragement not only to medical research workers and research chemists, but also to the chemical industry in India, which in the last two decades has made enormous strides. He always had the interest of his countrymen at heart, but he was never a politician; he was always loyal to his British teachers and to the governments he served. His death at a relatively early age is a sad loss to India and medical science.

L. EVERARD NAPIER.

Prof. J. V. Dubský

DR. J. V. DUBSKÝ, professor of analytical chemistry at the Masaryk University of Brno, Czechoslovakia, died on March 25, at the age of sixty-four. His loss will be felt all the more because he was the senior professor and the only mature and well-known chemist remaining at Brno; for Prof. J. Baborovský (aged seventy-two) has retired and Prof. Frejka has been called to Prague, while Profs. Simek and Kužma were executed by the Germans in 1942 (see *Nature*, 152, 69; 1943).

Dubský was not only a good lecturer and analyst, but also had done much to advance the use of organic reagents in the detection and estimation of metals, especially in the field of micro-analysis. In this connexion he wrote admirable surveys of the literature dealing with the various substances available as reagents for each metal. These reviews were published in the two Czech chemical journals, *Chemické Listy* and *Chemický Obzor*. To English colleagues Dubský is best remembered for his papers in the *Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communications* (1929-38) dealing with the reactions of oximes, of thio-derivatives like thiouramine, and of glycocoll, and with his own original contributions to quantitative analysis.

G. DRUCE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. E. G. Coker, F.R.S., emeritus professor of civil and mechanical engineering, University of London, on April 9.

Mr. Frank Crowther, chief plant physiologist, Sudan Government, on April 11, aged forty.

Prof. J. E. S. Frazer, emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of London, on April 15, aged seventy-five.

Prof. Amadeus W. Grabau, chief palæontologist of the Geological Survey of China and professor of palæontology in the National University of Peking, on March 20, aged seventy-five.

Lieut.-Colonel S. P. James, C.M.G., F.R.S., past-president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, on April 17.

The Right Hon. Lord Keynes, C.B., F.B.A., the well-known economist, on April 21, aged sixty-two.

Sir Harold Stiles, emeritus regius professor of clinical surgery in the University of Edinburgh, on April 19, aged eighty-three.

Prof. Ralph Stockman, emeritus professor of materia medica and therapeutics in the University of Glasgow, on February 27, aged eighty-four.

Mr. Harold Wright, chief metallurgist to Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd., who received the Bessemer Gold Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1945, on March 28, aged seventy-seven.