research on one hand and secrecy in technological matters of military importance on the other.

The violent attack on the old and well-established belief in the right to freedom in scientific research—an attack which, during the 'thirties, very nearly swept public opinion in Great Britain into a wholesale denial of that right—has turned attention to the psychological and philosophical foundations of that belief. A good deal of thought and study has been and is being devoted to the subject by members of the Society, and the results of some of it have been published. The field is wide, and much of it needs further clarification, for example, the relation of freedom in science to the concept of freedom at large. The present time, when the conflict between the opposite ideals of individualistic freedom and of the highly organised State with its tendency to totalitarian compulsion has reached a new degree of intensity, is particularly opportune for the active prosecution of these investigations.

[1] The whole set of Occasional Pamphlets may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society for Freedom in Science, University Museum, Oxford. 6*s*. 7*d*., including postage.

[2] Hudson, P. S., and Richens, R. H. "The New Genetics in the Soviet Union." Published by the School of Agriculture, Cambridge, 1946. 6*s*.

OBITUARIES

Sir Carruthers Beattie

Sir Carruthers Beattie, vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Cape Town during 1918–37, died in Cape Town on September 10.

John Carruthers Beattie was born in Dumfriesshire on November 21, 1866, and was educated at Edinburgh, where he was an 1851 Science Research Scholar and Vans Dunlop Scholar in physics, and afterwards at Munich, Berlin, Vienna and Glasgow. In 1897 he went to South Africa as professor of physics at the South Africa College, Cape Town, being one of a group of Scottish professors at the College who played a great part in the development of education in South Africa and raised the status of the South African College so that in 1918 it was reconstituted as the University of Cape Town. Beattie had been appointed principal of the College in 1917, and became in 1918 the first vice-chancellor and principal of the University. Under his administration the fine buildings of the University on the slopes of Table Mountain above Groote Schuur—probably the most magnificent site of any university in the British Empire—were planned and erected.

At the South African College the teaching duties of the professors were heavy and left little time for research. The most important scientific work undertaken by Beattie was the first magnetic survey of South Africa, carried out in collaboration with Prof. J. T. Morrison, of Stellenbosch, between 1898 and 1906. Beattie was granted leave of absence for one year in 1903 to continue the observations; apart from this, the observations were made during the various college vacations. More than four hundred stations were occupied from Agulhas in the south to the Victoria Falls in the north, and from Saldanha Bay in the west to Beira in the east. About twenty repeat stations were selected, at which observations were made at frequent intervals during the course of the survey for the determination of diurnal and secular variations. The results were published by the Royal Society in 1909 as "Report of a Magnetic Survey of South Africa" (235 pp.). Travelling in remote parts of South Africa at that time involved many discomforts, but in the course of it Beattie acquired an intimate knowledge of the country and its people.

Beattie was president of Section A of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1910, in which year he was awarded the Medal of the Association. He became president of the Association in 1928. During 1905–6 he was president of the South African Philosophical Society and, after the formation of the Royal Society of South Africa, was for a time general secretary of the Society. He served on many Government committees and boards; he was a member of the Universities Statutes Commission, 1917; of the Scientific and Industrial Research Committee, 1907; of the Industries and Science Board, 1920; and of the Mining Industry Board, 1923. He was chairman of the Survey Commission in 1921. In 1920 he was created a knight bachelor.

The young University of Cape Town was fortunate in having Beattie as its principal for twenty years. Under his wise guidance a well-merited reputation, both in teaching and in research, was rapidly built up. He gained the respect and affection both of the students and of his colleagues. He was not an autocrat, but he could be firm when firmness was required. Patient, tactful, modest and approachable, he was an ideal principal.

In 1898 he married Elizabeth, third daughter of W. Paton, of Scarborough, and had a son, who was killed in the Second World War, and two daughters.

H. Spencer Jones

Prof. M. Camis

Alberto Mario Camis, formerly professor of physiology in the Universities of Bari, Parma and Bologna, died on August 28, at the age of sixty-eight. For some years heart disease had seriously impaired his physical health, but his intellectual powers were unabated. His death will be mourned by a large circle of Italian and foreign friends. He paid several visits to physiological laboratories in Great Britain, beginning in 1908, when, as a young graduate from Pisa, he worked at Cambridge with Langley and Barcroft and at Liverpool with Sherrington. A year or two later he edited volume 1 of the English translation of Luciani's "Human Physiology".

Camis' scientific work covered a wide field, with original contributions on metabolism, respiration, oxygen carriage, the pharmacology of muscle, physiological psychology, the labyrinth, autonomic reflexes, the spinal cord, and the cerebellum. A cultured writer, with a great sense of style and arrangement, he also wrote some admirable monographs. "Il meccanismo delle emozioni" (1919) and "La fisiologia dell' apparato vestibolare" (1928) are particularly noteworthy. His interests in other branches of science, especially physics, in philosophy, in history, in literature, and in art gave him a breadth of view which, combined with modesty, kindliness, tact and generosity, made him a delightful companion. His short, stocky figure, black beard, vivacious manner and twinkling eyes will be remembered by all who met him. Well versed in the physiological literature of five languages, he was a frequent attendant and contributor at the International Physiological Congresses,