

## OBITUARIES

## Mr. A. B. Jackson

MR. ALBERT BRUCE JACKSON, who for many years has been an authority on the identification of hardy trees and shrubs, died on January 14 at his home, in the village of Kew Gardens, Surrey, after a short illness. He was nearly seventy-one years of age, having been born at Newbury on February 14, 1876.

On leaving school at the age of sixteen, Jackson began work as a journalist; but it did not appeal to him and he studied botany in his spare time, paying particular attention to the British flora. Some four or five years later his work on British botany attracted the attention of the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who offered him a post as temporary technical assistant in the Herbarium, where he would have an opportunity of furthering his botanical studies. Soon after, Mr. H. J. Elwes and Dr. A. Henry, when preparing their great work, "The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland", wanted an assistant who could look up botanical references and go about the country collecting information about rare and remarkable trees, and Jackson was given the post. It proved to be a very useful appointment, for not only did it enable him to lay the foundation for his future work upon trees and shrubs, but also, as Elwes and Henry had been given facilities for carrying out their work at Kew, Jackson was able to maintain his connexion.

On the recommendation of Mr. Elwes, Jackson undertook in 1910 to prepare a catalogue of the trees and shrubs in the gardens at Syon House, and that was the forerunner of what became a specialized part of his spare-time work. Later, he catalogued the trees and shrubs at Yattendon Court, Albury Park, Westonbirt, Borde Hill, and so late as last year, Dawyck.

In 1910, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens recommended Jackson for an assistant's post in the Imperial Institute, which he retained until 1932; since when, part of his time has been occupied with specialized work in the Department of Botany in the British Museum. In addition to his other activities he found time to coach a number of people in the identification of trees and shrubs, including the Duchess of Northumberland at Albury Park, and the late Duchess of Bedford at Woburn. It was at the suggestion of the Duchess of Bedford that the collection of trees and shrubs at Woburn was placed under his charge, and he visited the estate periodically for many years. During later years he has advised on the care of the trees for the authorities at Stowe School.

Although I had known Jackson from the date of his entrance into Kew, it was not until 1920 that we came into close contact. I had for several years been collecting material for a book on the Coniferae, and had got a good start, when a mutual friend told me that Jackson had a similar book in view. I therefore suggested collaboration, and after discussion we agreed that he should undertake the descriptions of hardy species and prepare keys to genera and species, I, on my part, undertaking the descriptions of all other species and supplying cultural and economic information. However, he was working hard at the Westonbirt Catalogue at the time, and in the end undertook the four genera, *Abies*, *Cupressus*, *Juniperus* and *Picea* with the whole of the keys. Through his friendship with Miss Lister he was able

to arrange with her to make and supply, free of cost, the many life-size drawings of Conifers which are such a distinct feature of the book. He was very keen on making keys to genera and species, and had often been asked to produce a small book giving keys to the Coniferae with a few details of identification of the kinds commonly grown in gardens. That book was published in 1946. Among his other activities, Jackson was a member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society.

W. DALLIMORE

## Mr. William Barnicot, M.B.E.

MR. WILLIAM BARNICOT, who had been secretary of the Rothamsted Experimental Station since January 1, 1920, died suddenly on December 30. He was born on February 10, 1872, at Shepley, near Huddersfield, and was educated at Marlborough, where he took a prominent part in athletics. Before going to Rothamsted he managed the family business of woollen manufacture, and during the First World War he was commissioned in the R.N.V.R.

Mr. Barnicot's twenty-seven years service as secretary of Rothamsted covered a period of remarkable expansion in agricultural research. The experience of the War of 1914-18 led the Government to devote considerable sums to the development of agricultural science, and both in buildings and in staff Rothamsted shared fully in the increase. Throughout this period of expansion a great deal of work necessarily fell on Mr. Barnicot, which he did with his customary unfurried efficiency. His labours were recognized in 1934 by the award of the M.B.E. In the disturbed conditions of the Second World War, the celebration of the Rothamsted centenary in 1943, although necessarily on a restricted scale, involved much more arduous preparation, in which Mr. Barnicot took a prominent share.

After two brief but serious illnesses in 1941 and 1942, Mr. Barnicot might have retired, but at the special request of the Ministry of Agriculture he agreed to continue until 1947. His loss will be severely felt not only by his colleagues but also by a large number of agricultural scientists throughout the world who have worked at or visited Rothamsted, and with whom he formed many friendships.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir John Flett, K.B.E., F.R.S., director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Museum of Practical Geology during 1920-35, on January 26, aged seventy-seven years.

Prof. W. L. Jepson, emeritus professor of botany in the University of California, on November 7, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. H. P. Lewis, professor of geology in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Dr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology in the University of Adelaide and well known for his journeys of exploration in Central Australia, on January 14, aged fifty-seven.

Prof. Karl Mannheim, professor of education in the University of London, on January 9.

Hr. J. W. Sandström, director until 1939 of the Stockholm Meteorological and Hydrographic Institute, aged seventy-two.