

tions with significant and measurable social or occupational influences are outside their province."

Prof. Ryle then cited in illustration a number of diseases, including gastric and duodenal ulcers, which it is not likely that we will master "until we study the victims of the disease at first hand and in relation to their work, their total occupational experience, their communities, their food, their habits and anxieties, and their innate predispositions".

These procedures involve the development of the science of 'social pathology' and 'hygiology', for "the study of the ultimate causes of disease—without which the specific factors can never find their opportunity—goes hand in hand with the study of the causes of health, and how much we have still to learn of the meaning and measurement of health".

Prof. Ryle further defined social pathology as "the medicine and pathology of families, groups, societies or larger populations. Just as human pathology is the related science of clinical medicine—so may social pathology be viewed as the related science of social medicine. Social medicine embraces, on the one hand, the whole of the activities of the public health administration and of the remedial and allied social services, and, on the other, the special disciplines necessary for the advancement of knowledge relating to sickness and health in the community".

Prof. Ryle emphasized the pertinence of his plea, quoting Julian Huxley, who has described current events as a "transition now in progress from the age of 'economic man' to the age of 'social man'. Our profession which is so particularly concerned with man and his welfare," said Prof. Ryle, "must assist this transition with all the scientific and humanist wisdom at its command. Hitherto, our science, like our practice, has evolved along individualist lines. Whatever the several countries may do with regard to the modification of their systems of practice and of service, it seems to me that the scientific study of health and disease in man—the most complex of all social animals—must henceforward concern itself to an ever-increasing degree with the interactions and correlations of disease and health with changing social circumstances. Socially, industrially, politically, we are creating a new age. With it, inevitably, we alter the whole character and distribution of diseases and set ourselves new problems for solution in the fields of medical science, practice and administration."

Prof. Ryle's thesis fitted in very appropriately with the general spirit of the centennial celebration of the New York Academy of Medicine and served as a splendid introduction to the 'Institutes' that have been planned as a part of the centenary celebration; notably the Institutes on Social Medicine, Public Health, and Medical Education. He took part in the Institute on Social Medicine during March 19, 20 and 21, the sessions of which were devoted to the discussion of the following topics: The Changing Concepts of the Relation of Medicine to Society; Social Medicine—Its Differentiation From and Relation to Clinical and Preventive Medicine; Epidemiology in Social Medicine; The Place of Nutrition in Social Medicine; Social Psychiatry and Social Medicine; Social Applications of Psychiatry. The Institute ended with a dinner meeting on March 21, at which Lord Horder, consulting physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, delivered an address on "Social Medicine: The Appeal of the Common Man".

OBITUARIES

Prof. Pierre Janet

PIERRE JANET, who died in Paris on February 24 at the age of eighty-seven, played a notable part in the development of clinical psychology. He took a degree in philosophy in 1882, and some of his best work was done before taking his degree in medicine eleven years later. He held various academic posts before becoming a professor at the Sorbonne, and was for a time in charge of the psychological laboratory attached to the Salpêtrière Clinic. It is not easy to trace his personal relationship with Charcot at that period, and their fundamental attitudes were very different. Thus, in his account of the controversy (c. 1886) when Bernheim showed that Charcot's phenomena of hysteria and hypnotism were artefacts, "the results of unskilled suggestion and involuntary training", he wrote ("Principles of Psychotherapy", trans., London, 1925; p. 30): "The victory of the animists was not well received, at least in the scientific world. They acknowledged it but deplored it. The doctrine of Charcot that it defeated was clear, definite, and easy to study; it seemed to bring animal magnetism within the limits of physiology, and that looked like scientific progress."

In 1889 Janet wrote "L'Automatisme Psychologique", in which his conception of dissociation of consciousness subsumes under one formula such apparently disparate manifestations as water-divining, mediumism, the bodily symptoms of hysteria, amnesias, fugues and somnambulisms. In view of the persisting popular belief in the dowser's rod it may be noted that, after describing its use in the pursuit of criminals and the finding of buried treasure, he wrote: "Il est probable que, dans quelques campagnes, subsiste encore la croyance aux révélations de la baguette divinatoire". As a description of what may be supposed to happen in the superficial layers of the mind the theory of dissociation is not incompatible with psychoanalysis, which Janet, however, was not able to accept. In "Les Obsessions et la Psychasthénie", written jointly with F. Raymond in 1903, scarcely any of the bizarre symptoms of these conditions escape recognition. Many are described for the first time, and the writers were a generation ahead in many observations, such as the recognition of writers' cramp as a psychogenic disorder. It is a pity that Janet's word 'psychasthenia' has fallen into disuse, for it avoids the metaphysical assumptions involved in the use of such words as 'neurasthenia' or 'neurosis' to denote pathological mental states.

Much of Janet's writing has been translated and published in Britain and in America. Running through all is an emphasis upon the history of psychopathology, which helps in the understanding of some fundamental differences of opinion that still exist. It must be admitted that his work received little recognition from the medical profession in France, for the spirit of the times was not yet in accord with his psychological approach. In the First World War the French were quick to recognize the importance of psychoneuroses in soldiers; but in their plentiful literature on the subject there seems to be no reference to his teachings. In Great Britain, however, the application of his work on amnesia threw light upon these conditions, and in the Second World War the use of pentothal in the revival of war memories was a tribute to his observation that

"ether, chloroform, and ethyl chloride have been used to bring about hypnotic sleep with some interesting results" (*loc. cit.*, p. 134).

Outside the medical world, however, Janet received full recognition, becoming president of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, while to many Parisians he was affectionately known as 'Papa Janet'. Last autumn, in spite of his years, he travelled to Zurich and delighted a psychological congress with the charm and erudition he showed in an extempore address. His work is now rather overshadowed by the developments of psychoanalysis, but he stands out as the pioneer who, almost single-handed, brought psychology into practical alliance with medicine.

MILLAIS CULPIN

Dr. A. H. Jay

THE tragic death of Dr. A. H. Jay on February 27 at the age of forty removes one of the most colourful characters from the ranks of X-ray workers in Great Britain. At conferences and discussions one could always be sure that Dr. Jay would present a novel aspect of whatever problems were being aired, and he presented it with a vigour that was characteristic of the man. His pronounced north country accent and his use of personal reminiscences gave his lectures a spice and flavour out of the ordinary.

Those who knew him on more intimate occasions knew also that his originality was not reserved for the lecture room; it manifested itself in many different ways, in research and in committee meetings. As a member of the committee of the X-ray Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics, Jay was a staunch advocate of individuality, and strongly opposed those of us who wished to introduce more standardization into X-ray matters; he had designed and built most of his own X-ray equipment, and he did not see why the coming generation of research workers should not do the same. What he did not realize was that so few were possessed of his energy and initiative, his

ability to overcome obstacles. As an example, his high-temperature camera might be cited. Jay designed this camera at Manchester and did much useful work with it; yet, after he left, nobody produced any results with it. The reason for this was obvious: there were so many points in it that had to be attended to at once that only Jay could manage to look after them all!

Jay's qualities were particularly well suited to the type of research work he undertook. His work with Bradley on superlattice formation in the iron-aluminium system is accepted as a model of completeness, and has been the basis of much theoretical investigation. It involved a quantity of measurement that would have daunted a lesser man, but work seemed to give Jay an appetite for more. This quality stood him in good stead in his work for industry, which involved the taking of large numbers of X-ray photographs of refractories. The interpretation of these photographs and the analysis of the results obtained from them enabled him to make many important fundamental contributions to the study of these materials, and it is probably true to say that the main importance of these contributions has yet to be seen.

It is sad to think that he has not lived to enjoy the pleasure of seeing his results applied. Britain can ill afford the loss of men of Jay's type in the present sombre conditions.

H. LIPSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. C. W. Hobley, C.M.G., secretary during 1923-36 of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, on March 31, aged seventy-nine.

Dr. Willard L. Valentine, editor of *Science* since January 1946, formerly professor of psychology in Northwestern University, on April 5, aged forty-two.

Henri Vallée, *Correspondant* for the Section of Rural Economy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on March 12.

NEWS and VIEWS

Bacteriology and Immunology in the University of London: Prof. E. T. C. Spooner

DR. E. T. C. SPOONER, who has been appointed to the University of London chair of bacteriology and immunology tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, went to Epsom College and to Clare College, Cambridge, where he obtained first classes in both parts 1 and 2 of the Natural Sciences Tripos. After the completion of clinical study at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he was house-physician to the late Sir Walter Langdon-Brown; he was elected to a Commonwealth fellowship and worked for two years with Prof. Hans Zinsser in the Department of Bacteriology of Harvard University. On his return from America he was elected to a fellowship at Clare College, and a University demonstratorship in the Department of Pathology at Cambridge. He was later elected to a University lectureship and took charge of the teaching in bacteriology for both Part 1 and Part 2 of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

On the outbreak of war in 1939, Spooner became a member of a group of workers at St. Bartholomew's

Hospital, which had been 'evacuated' to St. Albans, who were engaged in the study and prevention of the spread of streptococcal infection in surgical wards. Afterwards Dr. Spooner was appointed by the Medical Research Council as the bacteriologist member of a group of medical men who were sent to the Middle East to report on the hospitals and laboratories in North Africa, Egypt and Palestine. On his return to England, Dr. Spooner was for a time in charge of the E.P.H.L.S. laboratory at Cambridge. At the end of the War, Dr. Spooner resumed his work as a University lecturer; in 1944 he was appointed senior tutor of Clare College. Dr. Spooner has published work on the spread of infective disease, especially streptococcal infection, and for his work in this field was awarded the Horton Smith Prize at Cambridge. His chief interest is in the filterable viruses and in virus-produced disease.

Awards of the Valdemar Poulsen Gold Medal

THE Valdemar Poulsen Gold Medal was instituted by the Academy of Technical Sciences in Copenhagen on the occasion of Valdemar Poulsen's seventieth