from 1900 to 1919 were years of strenuous endeavour, and were perhaps the most constructive periods of Sir George's life-work.

The First World War gave a new impetus to preventive medicine, and in 1919 Dr. Addison, president of the Local Government Board, appointed Sir George Newman medical officer of the Board. However, the Ministry of Health was established in June of that year and took over the functions of the Local Government Board, the National Health Insurance Commission and other health activities; Sir Robert Morant became its secretary and Sir George Newman its chief medical officer, retaining his position under the Board of Education.

Newman's main task at the Ministry was to consolidate and develop the health services which had been established by the Local Government Board. Having to deal with wide issues, he was content to exercise general direction of the whole service. He therefore allowed his senior medical officers full scope in their respective spheres of work, although he was always ready to discuss important questions and decisions with them. In addition to his heavy responsibilities as chief medical officer of two departments, Sir George Newman undertook much other work. During the War of 1914-18 he was chairman of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee, which survives as the Industrial Health Board; he promoted the cause of temperance as medical member of the Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic); and served on many departmental and other committees. He rendered great service to medical education, not only in his special reports—"Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine" (1919) and "Recent Advances in Medical Education" (1923)—but also as medical assessor to the University Grants Committee, as Crown nominee on the General Medical Council during 1919-39, and in his work for the British Postgraduate Medical School and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Newman was an indefatigable worker, a fluent speaker, an expert diplomatist, a philanthropist, and a lover of books and medical history. In his writings and in his long series of annual reports of his department, adorned with pregnant phrases and quotations, he maintained the literary traditions of his predecessors, Simon and Buchanan. These reports exercised great influence upon the general public, impressing upon them the importance and value of public health. At various times he delivered the Yale, Linacre, Gresham, Halley Stewart and Heath Clark Lectures and the Harveian Oration. He retired in 1935.

Sir George received many honours. He was knighted in 1911, created K.C.B. in 1918 and G.B.E. in 1935. His honorary degrees included D.Sc.(Oxon.), D.C.L.(Dunelm) and the LL.D. of London, Edinburgh, McGill, Toronto, Glasgow and Leeds. He was also F.R.C.P.(Lond.) (1918), Hon. F.R.C.S.(Eng.) (1928), and honorary freeman of the Society of Apothecaries. He received the Bisset Hawkins Medal of the Royal College of Physicians in 1935 and the Fothergill Gold Medal of the Medical Society of London.

Short of stature, with abundant white hair and white moustache, Newman was a well-known figure in Whitehall. His conversation was vivacious and dramatic. He married Adelaide Constance Thorp in 1898, and with her lived a happy and secluded home life. Lady Newman died in 1946. Sir George died on May 26, 1948, at York, at the age of seventy-seven, after a long illness.

ARTHUR S. MACNALLY

Dr. George H. Pethybridge, O.B.E.

GEORGE HERBERT PETHYBRIDGE, for many years one of the leading personalities in plant pathology in Great Britain, died in his native town of Bodmin on May 23 at the age of seventy-six. Born in 1871, of a family well known in legal, medical and banking circles throughout Cornwall, he passed from Dunheved College, Launceston, to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He took an honours degree in science in the University of London, and, after a short period as science master at Kingswood School, Bath, and elsewhere, proceeded to the University of Göttingen in 1897. Here he studied under Prof. Berthold and obtained his doctorate for a dissertation on the effect of inorganic salts on the development and structure of plants.

Returning to Britain, he joined the staff of the Science and Art Department in the Royal College of Science, Dublin. When, in 1900, this body was taken over by the newly created Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, Pethybridge became the first head of the Seeds and Plant Diseases Division of the Department. During the next twenty-three years he carried out a long series of researches on diseases of potato, flax and other crop plants. It was mainly his work on potato diseases that gained him world-wide recognition, including the award in 1921 of the Boyle Medal of the Royal Dublin Society. One of his innovations was to establish field laboratories in areas where the diseases were most prevalent.

By his thoroughness, enthusiasm and rigorous experimental methods he greatly stimulated the study of plant diseases in Ireland and set a very high standard for those who followed him. He was, moreover, a keen field naturalist, and in 1905 collaborated with R. Ll. Praeger in an account of the vegetation of the district lying south of Dublin, while in 1910, with J. Adams, he published a "Census Catalogue of Irish Fungi".

On the change of government in Ireland, Pethybridge resigned his post, and shortly afterwards in 1923 he became mycologist to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and assistant director of the Ministry's Plant Pathology Laboratory at Harpenden. From then onwards his work was of an administrative rather than a research nature; but he played a large part in promoting research in plant diseases—notably into virus diseases of plants—and under his guidance intelligence work on plant diseases occurring in England and Wales was second to none. His long and valuable services were recognized by the award of the O.B.E. shortly after he retired in October 1936.

Pethybridge clung tenaciously to his ideals, perhaps even at times in the face of progress, but to the many who came under his influence he was a most generous, helpful and homely friend, a delightful correspondent and a wise counsellor, at work as well as by his fireside. His scientific writings bear the stamp of careful preparation and of the thoroughness that characterized his whole life: he gave and demanded the best and despised the shoddy. Shy and retiring by nature, he usually avoided public life and office, though he was persuaded to accept the presidency of the British Mycological Society in 1926. Among other activities he served the *Journal of Pomology* in an editorial capacity from 1936 until 1948, and it is a fitting and timely tribute that the current volume is dedicated to him.

W. C. MOORE