

loss of hydrostatic height involved in leading the water from the foot of the dam by way of a siphon through a turbine rather than from the incoming surface water, as would normally be done. The combination of simultaneous production of power and fish from the one investment might prove economic. This is another matter for consideration by engineers. In short, this unique experiment has provided such a mass of interesting and important facts as will stimulate academic research and practical endeavour in many parts of the world.

¹ *Proc. Roy. Soc., Edinburgh*, **63** (1947). An Experiment in Marine Fish Cultivation. No. 1. Introduction. By Dr. F. Gross. 1s. No. 2. Some Physical and Chemical Conditions in a Fertilized Sea-Loch (Loch Craigin, Argyll) by Dr. A. P. Orr. 3s. No. 3. The Plankton of a Fertilized Loch. By Dr. S. M. Marshall. 2s. 2d. No. 4. The Bottom Fauna and the Food of Flatfishes in a Fertilized Sea-Loch (Loch Craigin). By J. E. G. Raymont. 3s. 8d. No. 5. Fish Growth in a Fertilized Sea-Loch (Loch Craigin). By Dr. F. Gross. 7s. 8d. See also *Nature*, **153**, 483 (1944); **158**, 187 (1946).

² Cooper, L. H. N., *J. Mar. Biol. Assoc.*, **27**, 326 (1948).

³ Buch, K., "Der Borsäuregehalt des Meerwassers und seine Bedeutung bei der Berechnung des Kohlensäureystems im Meerwasser". *Cons. perm. int. pour l'explor. de la mer, Rapp. et Proc.-verb.*, **85**, 71 (1933).

OBITUARIES

Prof. Alexander Ogg

FOR more than forty years Alexander Ogg, who died on February 23, had been by common consent the much-loved leader in his subject of physics in South Africa. A Scotsman by birth, he graduated in the University of Aberdeen under Prof. Niven and afterwards obtained his doctorate as an 1851 Exhibitioner under Nernst in Göttingen. His interest in thermodynamics arose during this period, and led to his well-known English translation of Planck's classic work on the subject. After this, he was for a time a lecturer at Aberdeen, which he left to become a master in the Royal Naval Engineering College, Devonport. In 1905 he migrated to South Africa to be the first occupant of the chair of physics and applied mathematics at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown. In so doing he became by no means the least illustrious of that band of Scottish teachers who have contributed so much to South Africa.

Ogg's new department at Rhodes College was housed in part of the old military barracks and bore the inscription "Sergeants' Mess" over its door. He set to work with great vigour and in the face of many difficulties to convert it with his own hands into a physics laboratory which would be not only the best in the country but also bear comparison with any overseas. He soon became acknowledged as an inspiring teacher and attracted to his honours courses the best brains of the College, whether they intended to become physicists or not. Year after year, in regular succession, the senior overseas scientific scholarship in the Union was won by one of Ogg's students, all of whom to-day occupy leading positions in the life of the country.

In 1917, after assisting Sir William Bragg for a time in England in military research, he moved to the University of the Witwatersrand, and in 1920 to that of Cape Town, where he remained until his retirement in 1936. When the University of Cape Town moved to Groote Schuur, he planned and fitted up the new de Beers Physical Laboratories, devoting his spare time to making them an outstanding monument to his wide experience and skill.

During his time in Cape Town, Ogg became interested in terrestrial magnetism, and when he re-

tired from university life at the age of sixty-five he began a new one as director of the Government Magnetic Observatory, Hermanus, which again he planned and fitted up himself. Under his direction the Observatory has become well known internationally not only for its observations, which are considered to be among the most accurate in the world, but also for Ogg's papers on *K* indices of magnetic activity and on magnetic disturbances. He retired from the directorship in 1946, but maintained an active interest in the Observatory, as in all physical research in the Union, up to the time of his death.

The high standing of the subject of physics in South Africa is very largely due to Ogg's own high standards as a teacher and examiner. His students have become members of the staff of practically every university in the country, and his scholarly influence remains imprinted on both schools and universities. His time and energy, particularly in his early period, were so fully occupied with building up his departments that he had little available for research, though some valuable work on X-ray diffraction and crystal structure was done by him in Cape Town.

He was a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and its president for five years, a fellow of the Institute of Physics, the Physical Society, the Royal Microscopical Society and the Faraday Society. The University of Cape Town conferred on him the honorary degree of D.Sc. in 1936, and the University of Aberdeen that of LL.D. in the same year.

As a man, Ogg will be remembered for his kindness and humour, his strict sense of justice and the great personal interest he took in his students. He always exercised an important influence on university affairs, an influence which was all the more effective because of his unassuming integrity.

B. F. J. SCHONLAND

Mr. Harry Price

THROUGH the death of Mr. Harry Price on March 29, psychical research has lost its most distinguished journalist and writer of popular descriptive accounts of adventures with the unknown. He was born in 1881, and from an early age was keenly interested in conjuring and magic, which soon led him to a desire to inquire more fully into the alleged physical phenomena of mediumship. An opportunity was given him in 1922 to visit Munich in order to be present at some sittings with the famous medium Willi Schneider, with whom the late Baron von Schrenck was at that time experimenting. From that period until the day of his death his interest in the problems of mediumship never weakened.

After the first properly equipped séance room had been built and opened by the Society for Psychical Research in February 1924, Mr. Price followed suit, and in December 1925 he opened what he called the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, with premises in the house of the London Spiritualist Alliance in South Kensington. From that date he pursued his inquiries and published his results with unremitting zeal and enthusiasm. His books and magazine articles were written in popular and colloquial style, and it was through them that many people became acquainted with psychical research who would otherwise have taken but little interest in the subject.

Mr. Price had a wide knowledge of his subject, and in course of time accumulated what is undoubtedly