

the Scandinavian countries generally have perceived things already in that way and made provision for veterinary education at State expense out of all proportion to what was expended on the "starved and neglected" (to quote departmental committee reports) veterinary colleges in Great Britain in the past.

If one proceeds to make a proper 'job-analysis', then it will be found that to turn out veterinarians to meet the transformed and expanding situation the final objective of the necessary training is three-fold, being concerned with, first, clinical practice ('the doctoring of animals'); secondly, preventive medicine (or public control of the pestilences, grave or insidious, of the kind already mentioned); and thirdly, livestock husbandry and economy (of no less public significance than the former divisions and essential to meet the social circumstances as they are unfolding themselves). A whole array of sciences, many of which have only just emerged as sciences in their own right, such as animal nutrition, genetics, comparative psychology, endocrinology, need to have their proper place in the curriculum of teaching leading to the vocational objectives. Mere minor readjustments in the traditional curriculum are out of place; but what is called for is rather a complete resetting, bearing always in mind the time in the trainee's life that ought not to be exceeded and the expense and the important question of his or her natural aptitude.

Prof. Beveridge in his address has very well perceived many of the implications of the changed situation. The Veterinary Surgeons Act which has just been passed will give him ample freedom within the jurisdiction of a great university to develop his plans, and in all that endeavour he may be well assured of the good wishes and goodwill of his British colleagues. That that university should have thought fit to appoint a countryman of the daughter Dominion of Australia to launch its plans for a complete veterinary education on securing at last full legal sanction to do so is a gesture that will appeal both to the good sense and to the finer sentiments of everyone in Great Britain. Even if space allowed, digression upon the recent history of the several transactions which have ultimately led to the establishment of this teaching at Cambridge would be tedious. However, finally, even in the shortest notice, to omit paying respectful homage to the memory of the late Sir Clifford Allbutt, regius professor of physic at Cambridge, who worked hard during his long life to achieve this end, would be ungracious, now that that end he strove so hard for has come in sight.

OBITUARIES

Prof. Ruth Benedict

THE death on September 17 of Ruth Fulton Benedict at the comparatively early age of sixty-one deprives social anthropology of one of its most stimulating writers and thinkers. Ruth Benedict was one of the many American anthropologists who took their early training at Columbia University under the late Franz Boas, and she remained attached to that University all her life, ending her days as the holder of a chair in the Anthropological Department.

Ruth Benedict was a vigorous teacher as well as a woman of distinction and charm. In her youth she did field-work among the Zuni of New Mexico and

wrote a series of monographs on them. She will, however, be chiefly remembered for her original and provocative book "Patterns of Culture", published in 1934; "Race and Racism", published during the War; and "The Chrysanthemum and the Sword", an analysis of Japanese character which appeared last year.

The fashion of her day was the conventional type of ethnographic monograph; but she early cut away from these and marched boldly out on to the frontier between psychology and anthropology. She was interested from the first in the infinite diversity of values and behaviour patterns which are found in cultures of different types. She believed that these ideals and attitudes formed a coherent whole to which she gave the title 'culture pattern'. She suggested that cultures could be grouped into types on the basis of these patterns. Cultures might be described as Apollonian, Dionysiac or Paranoiac, for example, or they could be classified as 'shame' or 'guilt' societies. The individual brought up in such societies was shaped to their dominant pattern.

Ruth Benedict never developed a systematic typology on this basis. Systematic sociology was not the bent of her mind, and her culture pattern concept could not be sufficiently rigorously defined for comparative work of this kind. On the other hand, her imaginative insight and originality suggested a new field of problems for a younger generation of anthropologists and psychologists, and her literary gifts made her work available to the general public and very much influenced educationists. She must certainly be reckoned as one of the originators of the study of culture and personality which is such a dominant trend in American anthropology to-day.

Ruth Benedict was deeply interested in contemporary problems. During the War she used her methods and concepts to provide a study of the culture patterns of the Japanese for the American Office of War Information. At the time of her death she was engaged in a study of contemporary European cultures, and particularly of their methods of child education. She visited Europe during the past summer and was present at the International Ethnological Congress at Brussels, where she impressed her fellow workers by her vigour and charm. Her death in the middle of an important piece of work will certainly be deeply regretted by anthropologists everywhere.

AUDREY I. RICHARDS

Sir George Hill, K.C.B.

GEORGE FRANCIS HILL, numismatist, and director of the British Museum during 1931-36, youngest son of Samuel John Hill and grandson of Micaiah Hill, both missionaries in India, was born at Berhampur on December 22, 1867, and educated at Blackheath School, University College School, University College, London, and Merton College, Oxford, where he obtained first classes in Classical Moderations and Literæ Humaniores, and under the influence of Prof. Percy Gardner devoted himself to the study of Greek coins. He entered the British Museum in 1893, where Barclay Head had recently published his "Historia Numorum", still the standard text-book in that subject; and edited no less than six volumes of the "Catalogue of Greek Coins". The first of these, on the "Coins of Cyprus" (1897), was followed many years later by a general history of that island, the third volume of which, published in the present year,

brings the story to the Turkish conquest in 1571. Meanwhile, he did valuable service as editor of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, edited a handbook of "Sources for Greek History", and extended his special studies to Italian coins and medals, and the practical art of die-engraving. His great "Corpus of Italian Medals before Cellini" is his monument in this field.

In 1931, Hill succeeded Sir Frederic Kenyon as director and principal librarian of the British Museum, for which he acquired the biblical "Codex Sinaiticus" from the Soviet Government, and the Eumorphopoulos collection of Oriental antiquities, and where he planted the almond trees in the forecourt. He was created K.C.B. in 1933 and retired in 1936. He took an active interest in the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the Joint Archaeological Committee, and the Hellenic and Numismatic Societies; and published a standard treatise on "Treasure Trove".

Hill died in London on October 18, while a memorial volume of the *Hellenic Journal* and a bibliography, compiled by his many friends, were still with the printers.

JOHN L. MYRES

Mr. O. H. Latter

THE death of O. H. Latter on October 11 has removed not only a pioneer in science-teaching in schools but also one who, at the age of eighty-four, was as keen in sight and in mind and as ardent a correspondent as men sixty years his junior. His last letter in the *School Science Review*—characteristically both recalling a lecture of his Oxford days and insisting on accuracy to-day—appeared in June this year; and only two days before his death, while gardening, he shot one of his chief enemies, a grey squirrel.

Latter went as a boy to Charterhouse in 1878 and found there two science masters and no laboratory. In 1887 he took a first class in natural science at Oxford and became Berkeley fellow of Owens College, Manchester; he returned to Oxford in the following year as senior demonstrator to the Linacre professor. Next year he returned also to Keble as tutor. It was largely by chance—a very fortunate chance for science teaching—that in 1890 he returned to Charterhouse as senior science master. There he remained for thirty-six years, during ten of which he was a housemaster.

Latter's special interest was in Lepidoptera, Diptera and most particularly Hymenoptera. His paper in the *Cornhill* on wasps is typical of his gifts for observation and sympathetic exposition. But no branch of natural history escaped him. He contributed to various scientific journals papers on shellfish, the rabbit, puss-moth, cuckoo's eggs, an odd contortion in dog's mercury, and as a 'holiday task' in his seventieth year (with H. Eltringham) on the scent mechanism of the male *Euploea*. No living thing seemed to him to have been so well studied that nothing new could be observed about it, as witness his papers on the breathing of tadpoles (1923) and the dispersal of burdock (1941).

But Latter was far more than an observer, a writer of broad and lucid text-books and a teacher, great as is the debt his pupils owe to him and continue to acknowledge. He was a founder of what was then the 'Public Schools' Science Masters' Association', and his profound belief in the value of science (and especially biology) as an essential, and not merely a vocational, element in education has had an influence far beyond the public schools. Addresses of his exist on this, his favourite, subject to the British Association, the Association of Preparatory Schoolmasters and the Rotary Club of Colombo; and apart from this wider appeal his public spirit made him for many years the most valued chairman of Godalming Higher Education and Corporation Museum Committees and of the governors of Godalming County School. Fifty-eight years of meteorological observations have ended with his passing: his immense contribution to education remains.

J. C. THOMSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Johan Hjort, For.Mem.R.S., known for his sea-fisheries investigations, on October 7, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. Gustave Roussy, *académicien libre* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, formerly rector of the Sorbonne and director of the Cancer Institute of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, on September 30, aged seventy-three.

Dr. J. H. M. Wedderburn, F.R.S., professor of mathematics in Princeton University, aged sixty-six.

Dr. C. M. Wenyon, C.M.G., F.R.S., formerly director-in-chief, Wellcome Research Institution, on October 24.

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. Lise Meitner

WHEN, on November 7, Dr. Lise Meitner celebrates her seventieth birthday, her many friends will offer her their warmest congratulations and respectful admiration on a life of great activity, during which she has maintained the highest reputation for experimental discoveries in radioactivity and nuclear physics. Dr. Meitner studied under Boltzmann in Vienna. Moving to Berlin, she was for a time 'Assistant' to Planck. She then joined Otto Hahn and thus began a long and rich collaboration, ended only by her flight from the Nazi regime. Her investigations during this period of about thirty years are so many and so varied that only a few can be mentioned here. An early joint paper on the absorp-

tion of β -rays was followed by the discovery, with von Baeyer, of homogeneous groups in the β -ray emission from radioactive bodies. This opened up a new field, to which she returned again and again in subsequent years, taking a leading part in the elucidation of β - and γ -ray spectra and in the study of the properties of β - and γ -rays. To the earlier period of collaboration belongs also the discovery of protoactinium in 1918. In later years she worked with Hahn, and also with Strassmann, on the neutron-induced radioactivity of uranium. After Hahn and Strassmann had discovered the presence of active barium in irradiated uranium, and thereby established the division of the uranium nucleus, Dr. Meitner and her nephew O. R. Frisch gave, in a letter in *Nature* in March 1939, the first physical