

After this, Tchernavin worked for the British Museum (Natural History), and his first assignment was the collection of fishes made by the Titicaca Expedition of 1937. The taxonomic analysis of this rather uninteresting collection was given almost more than its share of meticulous labour by Tchernavin, who had, like all taxonomists, to cope with the shortcomings of his predecessors as well as with the limitations of his material. A museum analysis could scarcely go further, and this work will form a reliable basis for the study of ecological and genetic differentiation of these little fishes whenever someone finds it worth while. Tchernavin did not enjoy this work—not the failure of the then editor of the Titicaca reports to appreciate it—and he accepted with great enthusiasm a suggestion that he should report on the oceanic fishes brought back by the "Discovery" expeditions. He took first the Stomiatoidea, with the intention of studying the inter-relationships of the genera and families; but he became fascinated by the functional morphology of the head of *Chauliodius* and the movements involved in catching and swallowing prey. He soon found that current conceptions of the movements of the parts of the head and the fore part of the trunk in fishes were false or blurred, and he wrote the first account of these movements, both in the large-mouthed ocean predators and in familiar fishes like the salmon and cod, carried as far as morphological analysis may go. The largest of these works, beautifully illustrated by Tchernavin himself, is now in the press for publication as a separate monograph by the Museum.

In October last he learned that his best friend during recent years was fatally ill. He abandoned his work at the Museum the better to care for her, and although his devoted nursing prolonged her life five months beyond medical expectation, he took his own life on March 31, the day following her death. Many weeks previously he had left the notes for this obituary among his papers where some colleague would eventually find them.

ETHELWYNN TREWAVAS

Prof. H. B. Kirk

Two or three years before his retirement, when a bronze plaque and tablet were erected in honour of Harry Borrer Kirk, emeritus professor of biology, Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand, the tributes paid by different generations of his colleagues and students showed the profound affection harboured everywhere for that kindly and companionable soul. He was an inspiring friend, of an old-world cultured courtesy, quietly spoken, gently satirical on occasion, subtly humorous, but possessed of a strength of character which could make itself felt to some purpose—respecting his neighbours as he respected himself. He devoted his life to his students, and the effectiveness of his technique was mirrored by the high proportion of biology scholarships and honours won by his students year after year without intermission.

Prof. Kirk was born in England in 1859, and went to Auckland, New Zealand, in 1863. His father, Thomas Kirk, the New Zealand botanist, was born in Warwick and educated at Coventry, where, in 1850, he married Sarah Mattocks of that city. Prof. Kirk's elder brother, Thomas William Kirk, became prominent in New Zealand as the founder of the Government biological and horticultural depart-

ments; thus those two brothers had a far-reaching influence in pioneering the biological services of the Dominion, the elder in the applied and the younger in the academic field.

As a pupil at the Auckland Grammar School and at Wellington College, Prof. Kirk stood high in classics, modern languages, mathematics and science. There being no university college yet established in Wellington, he graduated as an extra-mural student of the University of New Zealand, and in 1883 secured M.A. with honours in zoology and botany. At that time he was employed in the Education Department, where he rose to be assistant inspector of native schools; during the twenty-four years so occupied, he made full use of his travels to study the biology of the country and to understand humanity in all walks of life. In 1903, when he was appointed to the chair of biology at Victoria College, Wellington, as the first professor, he was well equipped for the magnificent work he was to carry on for forty years. There were no laboratories at the outset, and he commenced work in a single room of a kindergarten school at Thorndon, which was available only at night; but by his efforts there arose from that modest beginning the extensive and modern biology block of Victoria College; he lived to see this erected and to occupy it for some years until failing eyesight, but not spirit, put a period to his active career. He retired in 1944, and died at Hamilton on July 15, 1948, aged eighty-nine years. DAVID MILLER

Mr. R. A. Todd

The death of Mr. R. A. Todd, coming so soon after that of Prof. Walter Garstang, has broken yet another link with those pioneer marine biologists at work at the opening of the present century. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Todd, of Norwich, where he was born in 1877; educated at Paston Grammar School, North Walsham, he graduated at the University of Leeds. It was in 1898 that Todd joined the staff of the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association as the director's assistant. The director was E. J. Allen, and the only other member of the scientific staff was Garstang, who was naturalist in charge of fishery investigations.

In those early days one of the first needs was to build up a knowledge of the marine fauna in the Plymouth neighbourhood, and Todd was well fitted for the purpose. He was an able and enthusiastic naturalist, and his name will always be linked with that of Allen in the reports of their well-known surveys of the Exe and Salcombe estuaries. Independently, Todd published an account of the invertebrate fauna of the bays between the Start and Exmouth, and to this day the "Plymouth Marine Fauna" is liberally sprinkled with his initials recording observations on many invertebrates.

In 1902 Todd was transferred to the laboratory at Lowestoft to assist in the international investigations in the North Sea which the Association was undertaking on behalf of the British Government. Here his faunistic knowledge proved invaluable and enabled him to produce his reports on the food of fishes which form the basis of our present knowledge. In 1910 the Lowestoft laboratory was transferred under the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Todd remained there until 1912, when he joined the Fisheries Department as an inspector. In 1920 he was appointed a district fishery officer and returned

to Plymouth and the south-west. In this work his scientific experience of the fishing industry and its methods, and his knowledge of the habits of fishes, made him a valuable adviser. He retired from service in 1937, but was temporarily re-employed from the outbreak of war until the beginning of 1944.

Todd had great charm, and will be especially remembered as a kind friend by members of a younger generation on the staff of the Plymouth Laboratory whom he and his wife made so welcome at their home in Elburton, outside Plymouth. Here he was always most anxious to discuss problems of natural history, and to the end he took a lively

interest in the work of the Laboratory at which he started his scientific career. He passed away without suffering after a long illness patiently borne, and the sympathy of his many friends will be extended to Mrs. Todd in her bereavement. F. S. RUSSELL

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. F. S. Locke, formerly reader in physiology at King's College, University of London, on May 5, aged eighty-three.

Count Maurice Maeterlinck, philosopher and naturalist, on May 6, aged eighty-six.

NEWS and VIEWS

15† University of Nottingham: Installation of the Chancellor

FULL university status was conferred on University College, Nottingham, by the King in Council on July 9, 1948 (see *Nature*, August 14, p. 240); Lord Trent was installed as chancellor of the new University on May 4, 1949. It was a day of magnificent pageantry, and the occasion was described by the great historian, Dr. G. M. Trevelyan, as truly historic. The long procession included representatives of seventeen foreign universities and of eighteen British and Commonwealth universities and university colleges, members of the University Grants Committee, students and staff of the University of Nottingham, the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, and the mayors of neighbouring towns. The vice-chancellor (Mr. B. L. Hallward) opened the meeting and called upon the senior pro-chancellor (the Duke of Portland) and the registrar to lead in the Chancellor. As the Chancellor's procession entered the hall, preceded by the mace-bearer in colourful costume, it was greeted by a fanfare of trumpets. On reaching the platform, the Chancellor was installed by the Duke of Portland, who delivered an address of welcome; he was followed by representatives of other universities. Then Lord Trent received the University's first honorary degree, that of doctor of laws. In returning thanks, Lord Trent described a university "as a seat of learning at which the habit of exact thinking is inculcated and the quest for truth is pursued for its own sake. It is in this sense that our University must be judged as a training ground for future leaders, at every level, of science, and of the arts and professions. The most important factor in industry to-day is the human one. Technical ability is not enough without leadership and vision, and to my mind the best training for these qualities is a course in the humanities."

The remainder of the ceremony consisted in the conferment of honorary degrees on Lord Macmillan, Lord of Appeal, Dr. G. M. Trevelyan, Sir Walter Moberly, chairman of the University Grants Committee, and Mr. E. W. Hives, the eminent engineer who is managing director of Rolls-Royce. The public orator, Prof. W. J. Sprott, introduced the graduands, mixing well-deserved praise with occasional gentle thrusts of humorous raillery. Lord Macmillan, in reply, emphasized the relation of a modern university to commerce and industry. He also referred to the long and fruitful association of Nottingham University College with the University of London, of the Court of which he was for many years chairman. Dr.

Trevelyan pointed out that Oxford and Cambridge are nearly at saturation point in numbers. If university expansion on a large scale is to take place, it should take place chiefly in the newer universities. "It must be an inspiring thing to belong to the newest University, so splendidly situated and equipped, in these days when the tide is with you and the future of things academic is so full of value and promise." At a luncheon held at the University before the installation, Sir Walter Moberly, toasting the University, said the auguries for its future were good. It had the support of the authorities and the people not only of the city but of the whole region; it had a home and setting which must be the envy of most universities in Britain and the beauty and dignity of which must be an inspiration to all who entered it; it had already given evidence that it could produce men who had made distinguished contributions to scholarship and who had a high, austere ideal of knowledge.

University of Malaya

THE University of Malaya, created by local legislation enacted in March and April, is the youngest university in the British Commonwealth. Its basis is the fusion of the King Edward VII College of Medicine (1905) and Raffles College (1928), in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on University Education which, under Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, visited Malaya in 1947. For some years the University will use the buildings and grounds in Singapore of the two constituent colleges, but hopes soon to begin to erect completely new accommodation on an as yet undeveloped site on the mainland. His Majesty's Government has promised £1,000,000 towards the building fund. The chancellor, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, has launched an appeal for contributions to an endowment fund. The first vice-chancellor is Dr. G. V. Allen, formerly principal of the College of Medicine. The Faculties of Arts (including social studies), Science and Medicine (including dentistry) will continue the teaching work of the two colleges and will shortly be developed to include departments of Chinese, Malay and Tamil studies. Among the research activities connected with the University are an Ionospheric Research Station, staffed and financed by the United Kingdom National Physical Laboratory, and a Tropical Research Unit, investigating the physiological and psychological effects of a tropical climate, staffed and financed by the Medical Department of the Royal Navy and the Medical Research Council.