

and human welfare. In individuals, whether students, colleagues or visiting men of science, he found a ready interest; his church claimed his loyalty and service, and to the American Association for the Advancement of Science he gave his counsel as one of its national officers for some years.

Prof. Reed leaves his mark indelibly on the literature of botany and plant physiology: he will long be remembered with affection by a wide circle of colleagues, students and friends in many lands.

F. C. STEWARD
J. DUFRENOY

Prof. W. J. Dilling

PROF. WALTER JAMES DILLING, who had held the chair of pharmacology at the University of Liverpool since 1930, died at Coniston on August 18 at the age of sixty-four.

Educated at Robert Gordon's College and the University of Aberdeen, he graduated M.B., Ch.B. with honours in 1907. He became second assistant to Prof. J. A. MacWilliam in the Department of Physiology and was afterwards appointed Carnegie research scholar in physiology. In 1909, as Carnegie research fellow in pharmacology, he studied in Germany and was for a time first assistant to Rudolf Kobert, professor of pharmacology and physiological chemistry at the University of Rostock. He returned to Aberdeen in 1910 to become lecturer in pharmacology, where he conducted a course in experimental pharmacology for medical students, which was the first of its kind in Great Britain. In 1914 he was appointed to the new Robert Pollok lectureship in materia medica and pharmacology in the University of Glasgow. His work there was interrupted by war service, and in 1915 he was commissioned in the R.A.M.C., with which he served until 1919. After a further period in Glasgow he went as lecturer in pharmacology to Liverpool in 1920. His merits as teacher and administrator soon gained recognition; he received the title of associate professor in 1926 and in 1930 was appointed to the newly created chair of pharmacology.

Prof. Dilling was deservedly popular with his students. His carefully prepared and constantly revised lectures were full of vitality and were embellished by humorous sallies which delighted his hearers. He was dean of the Faculty of Medicine during 1924-35 and again during 1939-45. His wise tolerance and able administration earned him the gratitude of colleagues and students alike. He was twice a member of the University Council. He was at various times an examiner to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, St. Andrews, Bristol, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and Wales.

In 1938 he was nominated to the General Medical Council, and in 1948 became chairman of its Pharmacopœia Committee. He was a Privy Council representative on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society and served as a member of the Pharmacology Committee for the British Pharmacopœia, 1948.

Prof. Dilling was the author of many papers on physiological and pharmacological subjects. Early researches led to the publication of an "Atlas of Crystals and Spectra of the Hamochromogens" in 1910. Other studies included investigations into the pharmacological actions of certain unfamiliar plants, of quinine on the parturient uterus and of lead compounds. He also wrote on medical historical subjects. But it was as a writer of text-books that

he excelled. Very early in his career he edited Bruce's "Textbook of *Materia Medica*", which became widely known to generations of students as "Bruce and Dilling". Frequent revisions were undertaken with characteristic energy and thoroughness, and were remarkable not only for their clear presentation of the most recent developments in pharmacology, but also for their understanding of the clinical problems attending the application of drugs, new and old. Under the revised title of "The Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the *Materia Medica*", the book had reached its eighteenth edition in 1944 and revision for the nineteenth edition was almost complete at the time of his death. From 1940 onwards he contributed the important chapter on recent developments in drug therapy to the annual "Medical Progress" volume of the "British Encyclopædia of Medical Practice". He had a profound knowledge of his subject as applied to both veterinary and dental practice. He was joint author, with S. Hallam, of another widely used text-book, "Dental *Materia Medica*, Pharmacology and Therapeutics", now in its third edition.

His interests were wide and embraced many subjects besides pharmacology. He had a life-long love of music and was chairman of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society for several years. At his home in Coniston he was a countryman, keenly interested in rural ways and Lakeland life, of which he acquired an extensive knowledge. To a keen and critical intellect he joined the utmost friendliness, and those who approached him for advice or help found him ready to give freely of his time and energies to the solution of their problems. During the Second World War he commanded the medical company of the University Senior Training Corps and spent long hours with his student stretcher bearers receiving casualties at the railway terminus, sometimes far into the night. These and other war-time activities took heavy toll of his energies and eventually of his health, and he never fully recovered from the prolonged strain which a high sense of duty imposed upon him. His loss is mourned by a wide circle of friends. He leaves a widow and two daughters. R. W. BROOKFIELD

Mr. C. W. Parsons

CHARLES WYNFORD PARSONS was born in 1901 at Swansea, the son of Tom Posslethwaite Parsons. He was educated at Bristol Grammar School, proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1920, and, after graduation in 1924, was appointed assistant in the Department of Zoology, University of Glasgow. There he remained, attaining the position of senior lecturer, until his untimely death at Birmingham on August 26.

Parsons's first published work was on the behaviour of *Amœba*; but his interests soon changed, as was but natural in a department then under the direction of Graham Kerr and noted for its contributions to vertebrate morphology and embryology. After a valuable paper on the conus arteriosus in fishes, he received for examination the penguin embryos collected during the *Discovery* investigations, and his beautifully illustrated report on these, published in "Discovery Reports" in 1932, represents his major contribution to zoological knowledge. It was followed two years later by an account of similar material collected during the course of the British Antarctic (*Terra Nova*) Expedition of 1910. This included