

citric acid containing sodium chloride than pure aluminium, which forms a highly protective film; in the latter case the attack is localized⁸ and may take the form of pitting, so that purity is not always an advantage.

It should be added, however, that this is not the only reason why impure metals are sometimes corroded more quickly than pure metals. Commercial zinc is attacked more rapidly by acids than pure zinc because the metallic impurities, passing into solution, are reprecipitated to form cathodes of low 'overpotential', on which hydrogen can readily be liberated.

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OBITUARIES

Dr. Harald Blegvad

THE science of marine biology has suffered a great loss by the death on August 22 of the director of the Danish Biological Station, Dr. Harald Blegvad. Blegvad was born on the small Danish island, Samsø, on July 24, 1886. When he had matriculated at the University of Copenhagen in 1904, he took up the study of natural history; he took the degree of M.Sc. in 1910 and in 1921 he obtained a doctorate for a thesis on the biology of some coastal Gammarids and Mysids.

Already as a student he took part in cruises with Danish research vessels in home waters and in the Atlantic. In 1908 he became assistant at the Danish Biological Station, and in 1931 he succeeded A. C. Johansen as director of the Station.

Blegvad's scientific work centred upon the study of the biology of the marketable fishes and of their food organisms. The long series of papers from his hand bear evidence to his keen eye for the essential points of the problems, and further of his clear understanding of what conclusions the material available allowed. His papers show that he possessed that sober self-criticism which is so indispensable to all true scientific work.

Blegvad combined science and practice, and his services to the fishery industry were manifold. He worked on the transplantations of plaice and cod, on the protection of fishes, and, on trips with fishing vessels, he tried new gear and helped the fishermen to find new fishing grounds. Through his personal contact with fishermen and by publishing popular articles and handbooks, he caused a growing understanding of the value of biological science to the fishery industry.

In the work of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Blegvad played a great part; during 1931-45 he was chairman of the Transition Area Committee and since 1945 he had been general secretary to the Council.

As a result of his international reputation as a fishery expert, Blegvad was often called upon by foreign governments which wished to re-organize their fisheries. In 1928 he acted as fishery expert in Lithuania, during 1936-38 he was for two half-years in Persia, and in 1949 he worked for the Government of Ceylon.

By his friends and colleagues Blegvad was much appreciated for his fine, human qualities. He was kind, true and helpful, and his sudden death by heart-failure caused widespread regret.

ERIK M. POULSEN

Dr. E. G. V. Percival

THE death of Dr. E. G. V. Percival at Edinburgh on September 27, at the early age of forty-three, at the height of his powers as a teacher and investigator, is a serious loss to organic chemistry.

Edmund George Vincent Percival was born at Coalville in 1907 and was educated at King Edward VII Grammar School, Coalville, and at the University of Birmingham. After a brilliant undergraduate career he joined Dr. (now Prof.) W. Wardlaw in researches in inorganic chemistry. This experience was followed by a period with Prof. Harold Hibbert at McGill University, Montreal, where he undertook physico-chemical investigations in the field of cellulose chemistry.

With this wide background Percival returned to Birmingham as research fellow in Sir Norman Haworth's laboratories, where he speedily acquired the interest in carbohydrate chemistry which he maintained so vigorously to the end of his life. In 1933 he was appointed lecturer in chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, and was promoted to a readership in 1948. He was a member of the Faculty of Science, a director of studies and in 1951 he was elected a member of the *Senatus Academicus*. In addition to his University work, Percival gave generously of his services to the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the fellowship of which he had gained in 1936, and to the Society of Chemical Industry. He became a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1938. For many years he took an active interest in the work of the Pharmaceutical Society and of the Scottish Seaweed Research Association. In 1948, when the annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry was held in Edinburgh, and again in 1951 on the occasion of the meeting of the British Association, he played a notable part in securing the success of the local arrangements. He served with distinction on many committees, and at the time of his death he was a member of Council of the Chemical Society.