

the Empire Marketing Board provided funds for a research team under his leadership. The work included the nature of the cell inclusions—the so-called X-bodies—the concomitant bacteria in virus diseases, and the size of the viruses.

When W. B. Brierley left Rothamsted in 1932 to occupy the chair of agricultural botany in the University of Reading, Henderson Smith was appointed to succeed him as head of the Department of Mycology; it continued to expand and to attract able young people, becoming one of the most vigorous at Rothamsted. He served as president of the Association of Applied Biologists, and was also president of the Virus Section of the 1939 International Congress of Microbiology.

'H. S.', as he was always affectionately called, enjoyed much quiet esteem among his colleagues. Under his wife's watchful care he had to be cautious in all matters pertaining to health, but this did not restrict his interests. Like his wife, he was well read; in addition, he was a recognized authority on book plates, of which he was a discriminating collector, and an ardent and competent player of golf and of bridge. He never sought popularity, but his courage and his persistent determination to go on with his work in spite of threatened ill-health won him much respect from those who knew him well.

E. JOHN RUSSELL

Dr. Franz K. Nagelschmidt

FRANZ NAGELSCHMIDT, a pioneer of physical medicine, died on October 4 in Manchester. He was born in Berlin on January 29, 1875. He studied medicine, but soon became also interested in physics, for he thought that the many advances in modern experimental physics taking place at the end of the past century could be utilized for medical purposes. He went first to Copenhagen to work with Finsen, the founder of light therapy. He then returned to Berlin and established a light treatment institute at the Charité, where he installed the first X-ray unit for therapeutic purposes in 1903. In 1904, he founded a light treatment institute in Breslau, where he applied radium rays for the first time for treatment. In 1906, he settled in Berlin and founded the Finsen Clinic, of which he was in charge until 1933. Here he developed diathermy—the name was coined by him, and generally adopted, for the creation of heat inside the tissue by external application of electric

currents, his best-known discovery. He also designed and introduced an ultra-violet lamp without water cooling. This lamp, the prototype of modern ultra-violet lamps, carried his name for several years. In 1911, he designed an apparatus to produce 'electro-rhythmic current' for electrical vibration treatment. In 1912, he invented the neon lamp, originally for medical purposes.

In 1933, Dr. Nagelschmidt left Germany for Great Britain, where he was immediately made an honorary consultant of physiotherapy at the Jewish hospital in London. In 1934, he had been awarded the "Golden Key" of the American Congress of Physical Therapy for "outstanding service to the science of physical medicine". In 1936, he qualified in Edinburgh as a medical practitioner and settled in Manchester as honorary consultant in physiotherapy at the Jewish hospital. He also founded a private therapeutic institute where he practised physiotherapy and carried out research until about three hours before his death.

Nagelschmidt was a man of many talents and many interests, in art as well as in science. In spite of all his achievements, he was a very modest man. This modesty made him call all the therapeutic establishments installed by him after his teacher Finsen, and this may explain why the scientific world knows the name of Finsen, who first conceived light therapy, much better than the name of Nagelschmidt, who developed it and who added all the other forms of physiotherapy to it. It may also account for the fact that few honours were bestowed on this great man.

W. ROMAN

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. E. G. Dymond, reader in natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, on October 26, aged fifty-two.

Prof. M. G. Evans, F.R.S., professor of physical chemistry in the University of Manchester, on December 25, aged forty-eight.

Prof. A. H. Jameson, emeritus professor of civil engineering in the University of London (King's College), on December 23, aged seventy-eight.

Prof. E. Allison Peers, Gilmour professor of Spanish in the University of Liverpool, and author, under the pseudonym "Bruce Truscot", of books on the functions of universities in present-day Britain, on December 21.

NEWS and VIEWS

A Further Coelacanthid Fish

ON December 22, 1938, a fish of Crossopterygian type was taken by trawl-net, at a depth of about 40 fathoms some miles west of East London. The animal was unquestionably alive when caught. It was 1,500 mm. in total length and weighed 127 lb. The colour was a bright metallic blue which faded to brown with preservation. Miss Courtenay-Latimer, curator of the East London Museum, took charge of the catch, and eventually Prof. J. L. B. Smith, now research professor of ichthyology in Rhodes University, Grahamstown, was able to examine it (*Nature*, 143, 455; 1939). Prof. Smith immediately named it *Latimeria chalumnae* gen. et sp. nov., as a tribute to Miss Latimer. This discovery naturally aroused great interest, although, in spite of Miss Latimer's

care, much disintegration of parts had occurred. Until then, only fossil records of coelacanthid fishes, believed to have been extinct for about fifty million years, had been available. Further details of this fish were published in *Nature* (143, 748; 1939) by Prof. Smith.

Now comes a report of a further catch. This second fish was reported as having been caught on December 20 off the island of Anjouan in the Comoro group, two hundred miles west of Madagascar. It was reported to be about 5 ft. long and to weigh about 100 lb. On December 29, the fish was received by Prof. Smith, who had flown to the island to retrieve it and to take it to Rhodes University for further study. Preliminary reports suggest that Prof. Smith is very satisfied with the state of preservation of the