OBITUARY

Prof. William H. Woglom

CANCER research has suffered the loss of a pioneer, in the death at the age of seventy-four of Prof. William H. Woglom, at the Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, on August 8. Born in Brooklyn, Prof. Woglom graduated in 1901 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and after a period in medical practice in Manhattan became assistant in pathology at the Long Island College Hospital, and later pathologist and bacteriologist to the Department of Health. Between 1909 and 1946, at the Crocker Institute of Cancer Research, Columbia University, he was successively assistant, assistant professor, associate professor and professor emeritus, and in 1936 was specially honoured by the University for his conspicuous service. Prof. Woglom was president of the New York Pathological Society during 1924-26, of the American Association for Cancer Research in 1937, and from 1941 until 1946 he acted as a member of the scientific advisory committee of the International Cancer Research Foundation.

In his earlier career Prof. Woglom visited and worked in the laboratories of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and this happy association with Britain is reflected in certain joint publications; for example, with J. A. Murray on tar cancer¹, and with B. R. G. Russell on the respiratory exchange of surviving tissues of the mouse². Prof. Woglom was

specially devoted to questions of resistance and immunity, and published a paper in this field, on the immune reaction to transplanted cancer in the rat, in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*³. Another early paper, of special interest in connexion with later developments in heterotransplantation, discussed tumour inoculation into the eye of an alien species⁴. However, in the list of Prof. Woglom's writings, pride of place should be given to his "The Study of Experimental Cancer: a Review"⁵; remarkable for its time, it still remains a valued classic. In later years he was author of "Discoverers for Medicine", an account of men who, although not physicians, had made important contributions to medicine; and he also translated into English Ernst Cassirer's "Problem of Knowledge" and Charles Oberling's "Riddle of Cancer".

Apart from his scientific accomplishment, mention must be made of other qualities—a generous and kindly nature, high sense of humour (often expressed in telling fashion in his writings and abstracts), extreme fairness and loyalty, and a devotion to literature and music—all of which combined to make him greatly loved by those who had the fortune to know him. He is survived by his widow, and by the children of an earlier marriage. ALEX. HADDOW

¹ 7th Sci. Rep. Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 1921.

² *Brit. J. Exp. Path.*, **1**, 244 (1920).

³ *Proc. Roy. Soc., B*, **85**, 197 (1912).

⁴ *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, **12**, 209 (1914/15).

⁵ "Studies in Cancer", Vol. 1. Crocker Research Fund, Columbia University (New York, 1913).

NEWS and VIEWS

Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Birmingham : Dr. R. S. Aitken

AFTER Sir Raymond Priestley retired last year from the vice-chancellorship of the University of Birmingham, Prof. H. F. Humphreys, formerly professor of dental surgery in the University, was asked to take over the post until a successor could take office. Although, shortly afterwards, Dr. R. S. Aitken, vice-chancellor of the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, was appointed to Birmingham, he was unable to take up the post immediately. Prof. Humphreys continued in office for a year until, quite recently, Dr. Aitken was free to take up his new appointment. Dr. Aitken, who was born in New Zealand, was educated at the University of Otago, graduating in medicine and surgery, and then in 1924 gained a Rhodes scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a Ph.D. After medical work in the University of London, he was appointed in 1939 as regius professor of medicine in the University of Aberdeen, and it was during the Second World War that his exceptional administrative talents became well known when he took part in a survey of Scottish hospitals. Returning to his native New Zealand in 1948 as vice-chancellor of the University of Otago, Dr. Aitken was faced with the severe task of administering a university which was not only trying to make up for the lost war years but was also rapidly expanding, in keeping with the growing importance of the Antipodes. His services to Otago and also to the Federal University of New Zealand have been profound, and he takes up his duties in Birmingham with a reputation for university administration that is firmly established.

Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Otago, Dunedin : Prof. F. G. Soper, C.B.E.

DR. R. S. AITKEN has been succeeded as vice-chancellor of the University of Otago, Dunedin, by Prof. F. G. Soper, formerly professor of chemistry at Otago. Prof. Soper, who is fifty-five, was educated in Wales at St. Asaph Grammar School and the University College of North Wales, Bangor. After sixteen years as lecturer at Bangor, during which time he gained a D.Sc., he went in 1936 to New Zealand on being appointed professor of chemistry at Otago and shortly afterwards took on the additional responsibility of being director of the New Zealand Woollen Mills Research Association. During the Second World War he served as deputy director of scientific development (chemical) of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and he is at present a member of the Defence Science Advisory Committee of that country. As a member of the Academic Board and Senate of the University of New Zealand, Prof. Soper has been closely connected with recent developments in university education in New Zealand and has also given much time to the technical and professional advancement of science, being a past president of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry and of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Consequently his appointment as vice-chancellor of Otago is singularly apposite and augurs well for the future of the University. He was made a C.B.E. in 1950.

Fisheries Research Vessel *Alister Hardy* of the Fisheries Research Unit, University of Hong Kong

In previous references in *Nature* to the work of the Fisheries Research Unit of the University of Hong