OBITUARY

Prof. E. A. Hooton

By the sudden death of Ernest Albert Hooton, until lately professor of anthropology at Harvard University, anthropology has lost one of its most brilliant, provocative and stimulating exponents. He died on May 3, at the age of sixty-six, as the result of a heart attack shortly after returning from lecturing in the Department to which so many years of his life had been devoted, and where he still enjoyed teaching, though he had retired from administrative responsibilities.

Hooton was born in Wisconsin, and attended Lawrence College and the University of Wisconsin. In 1910 he went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, intending to read classics. Instead, he studied anthropology under R. R. Marett, Arthur Thomson and Henry Balfour, being awarded the diploma with distinction in 1912. Although it was in the field of physical anthropology that he made his mark, he never underrated the importance of the other two sides of the subject, as taught by that famous triumvirate. It was characteristic of him that he dedicated one of his books "To the most social of social anthropologists, to the most human of human anatomists, to the most advanced interpreter of primitive industries, in short, to my teachers of anthropology at Oxford". He returned to the United States to take up the post of instructor in the then infant Department of Anthropology in Harvard University, where he remained to become, in 1930, professor of anthropology and head of the rapidly expanding Department.

His first major publications were detailed anthropometric studies of two large collections of human bones, "The Ancient Inhabitants of the Canary Islands" (1925) and "The Indians of Pecos Pueblo" (1930); the latter, a masterly analysis of the skeletal remains of a thousand years of occupation of that New Mexican village, added much to our knowledge of the physical characteristics of the American Indians. Meantime, the wider problems of physical anthropology were claiming his attention, and his later work was devoted to interpreting man's place in Nature, physical and psychological, past, present and future, in terms which those who were not anthropologists could understand. To arouse interest in a subject which Hooton considered of major importance to everybody, the titles of his books grew more and more startling: "Up from the Ape" (1931) was followed by "Apes, Men and Morons" (1937), "Why Men behave like Apes and Vice Versa" (1940) and "Man's Poor Relations" (1942). His unconventional, witty and often pungent style caused his books to become widely known, and if his unorthodox approach sometimes shocked his staid colleagues, they had to admit that behind his showmanship he had the root of the matter in him.

In addition to writing, teaching and building up his Department, Hooton put his unfailing energy and powers of organization at the service of those who were striving to promote the study of anthropology elsewhere, while his kindly interest and trenchant advice were always available to individual students of the younger generation. His too early loss will be deeply regretted by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

BEATRICE BLACKWOOD

NEWS and VIEWS

Principal of the Rhodesia University College:

Dr. W. Rollo

DR. W. ROLLO has been appointed the principal of the new Rhodesia University College, the development of which is discussed on p. 1007. Dr. Rollo, who was formerly professor of classics in the University of Cape Town, took up his position early this year. He was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated before the First World War, and in Holland. During that War he was captured by the Germans and eventually permitted to go to Holland in an exchange of prisoners arranged between Great Britain and Germany. During his time in Holland he studied at a Dutch university and took a degree, while teaching English and classics to Dutch students. His wife is Dutch, and after the War he moved to South Africa, where ultimately he became professor of classics in the University of Cape Town. All those who met him during his recent visit to Great Britain were impressed by the energy of body and mind which Dr. Rollo displays despite the fact that he is now more than sixty years of age. To many he would appear to be a dozen years younger, and the Rhodesia University College is indeed fortunate to find a man with his experience and background, and with such vigour and forceful purposefulness, for the initial development of such an important and complicated matter as the institution of a new multi-racial university college in Africa.

Oceanography in Liverpool:

Prof. J. Proudman, C.B.E., F.R.S.

PROF. J. PROUDMAN, who is retiring from the chair of oceanography in the University of Liverpool, took his first degree in mathematics at that University and then went to Trinity College, Cambridge. He became interested in tidal theory, began research on the subject and, while professor of applied mathematics at Liverpool, prepared for the British Association a survey of the state of the practice and theory of tides at the end of the First World War. This convinced him of the need for an institute devoted mainly to research on tides, and it is due to his ability in enlisting the interest and support of Liverpool shipowners that the Tidal Institute was established in the University of Liverpool in 1919, with Prof. Proudman as honorary director and Dr. A. T. Doodson as secretary. Prof. Proudman received the Adams Prize from the University of Cambridge for an essay on tides in 1923, and with characteristic generosity devoted the money to the needs of the new Institute. That essay contained the beginnings of many important researches. Prof. Proudman was one of the British delegates to the First Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Rome in May 1922, and since then has been secretary of its Committee on Tides. He later served on other committees, notably that on Mean Sea Level, and was elected secretary of the International Association of Physical Oceanography at the meeting