

style. In his early days, Horner—one of those people who have a feeling for words and a sense of their value—contributed lightheartedly to his school magazine at Tonbridge, and to St. Bartholomew's Hospital *Journal*, of which he was editor for a time; but when, after serving in the First World War, he joined the staff of the *British Medical Journal* he quickly acquired its discipline and devoted himself to the precise writing and editorial revision which a scientific journal demands. His use of language was scrupulous, and any infelicity or slovenliness in phrasing he would regard as a form of discourtesy. But he was also a man of businesslike ability and resource, exemplified particularly on two occasions, one of them the general strike of 1926, when two issues of the *Journal* appeared in a very attenuated form indeed, but nevertheless appeared, and the other the occasion in 1941, when the printing office was destroyed in an air raid and the most extraordinary improvisations had to be made.

In the latter years of his editorship the British Medical Association became responsible for a number of special journals dealing with different aspects of medicine. Some eight of these were running by the time Horner left Tavistock Square, and although he did not take a major part in starting them they owed a good deal to his suggestions and to the tradition of responsible editorship which he always followed and which he strove to inculcate in others.

Apart from his editorial work, his interest was in the history of medicine. His M.D. thesis in 1922 was on the growth of general medical practice in England. He was honorary secretary and afterwards vice-president of the Section of History of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine. After his retirement he assisted in the compilation of the "Medical History of the Second World War".

Horner was editor during a troubled period which comprised not only a world war but also vital change in the medical profession itself. He was handicapped by ill-health; but he maintained throughout his years of office a great integrity, a desire quietly and without special recognition to serve the profession to which he belonged, and to his colleagues and staff he was invariably sympathetic and ready to give a discerning praise where praise was due.

Prof. P. C. Sarbadhikari

DR. C. P. SARBADHIKARI, the well-known Indian cytologist, who died on December 27 in his fifty-sixth year, was professor of botany and head of the Botanical Department of the University of Calcutta. As a young man he studied under the late Sir John Farmer at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and obtained the D.Sc. of the University of London for a series of researches on the cytology of *Osmunda* and *Doodia*. He also studied for shorter periods at Wisley, Kew, Merton, Berlin-Dahlem, and at the University of Paris under Prof. Guilliermond. In 1925 he was appointed lecturer in botany at University College, Colombo, and later became professor there. In 1947 he went to Calcutta to the post which he occupied at the time of his death.

Prof. Sarbadhikari was the author of numerous papers on a variety of botanical topics. His chief contributions lay in the field of morphology and cytology. Specially notable are his researches on the cytology of apogamy and apospory in ferns. A man of considerable culture, he did much to develop botanical study and research in India.

NEWS and VIEWS

Mathematics at Glasgow: Prof. T. M. MacRobert

PROF. T. M. MACROBERT, who retires in September from the chair of mathematics in the University of Glasgow, has made valuable contributions over the past thirty-five years to the theory of various special functions of analysis. His earlier papers dealt mainly with asymptotic expansions of these functions, and were followed by papers dealing with the addition theorem for Legendre functions, and series and integrals of these functions regarded as functions of their degrees. In 1937 Prof. MacRobert introduced the *E*-function, a generalized hypergeometric function, which has proved extremely fruitful for the study of confluent hypergeometric, Bessel and Legendre functions. His more recent papers are mainly concerned with the study of the properties of the *E*-function. He is the author of a number of well-known treatises on mathematics, of which the best known are "Functions of a Complex Variable" and "Spherical Harmonics". During his twenty-seven years as head of the Department at Glasgow, Prof. MacRobert has seen a large increase in the numbers of his staff and of his students, and it was on his initiative that a major scheme of reconstruction was carried out in 1950, involving the conversion of a large hall into a library and a set of lecture, tutorial and staff rooms. Prof. MacRobert was a member of the group of mathematicians who

founded the Glasgow Mathematical Association in 1927. He has taken a prominent part in all its activities and has been the moving spirit behind the inauguration of its *Proceedings*, which, published with the co-operation of the University Court, were first issued in 1951.

Prof. R. A. Rankin

PROF. MACROBERT will be succeeded by Prof. R. A. Rankin, at present Mason professor of pure mathematics in the University of Birmingham. Prof. Rankin was appointed to the Birmingham chair in 1951 (see *Nature*, 167, 840; 1951).

Cytogenetics in the University of London:

Prof. P. C. Koller

THE University of London has conferred upon Dr. Peo Charles Koller the title of professor of cytogenetics, in respect of the position which he holds in the Chester Beatty Research Institute (of the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital). Dr. Koller has successively worked at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin (under Prof. R. Goldschmidt), at Cambridge where he studied genetics under Prof. R. C. Punnett, at the Institute of Animal Genetics in the University of Edinburgh (with Prof. F. A. E. Crew), at the Biological Research Institute, Tihany, as head of the Department of Genetics, and at the