COPLEY MEDALLISTS, 1915–54

1915 I. P. Pavlov	1934 Prof. J. S. Haldane
1916 Sir James Dewar	1935 Prof. C. T. R. Wilson
1917 Émile Roux	1936 Sir Arthur Evans
1918 H. A. Lorentz	1937 Sir Henry Dale
1919 W. M. Bayliss	1938 Prof. Niels Bohr
1920 H. T. Brown	1939 Prof. T. H. Morgan
1921 Sir Joseph Larmor	1940 Prof. P. Langevin
1922 Lord Rutherford	1941 Sir Thomas Lewis
1923 Sir Horace Lamb	1942 Sir Robert Robinson
1924 Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer	1943 Sir Joseph Bancroft
	1944 Sir Geoffrey Taylor
1925 A. Einstein	1945 Dr. O. T. Avery
1926 Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins	1946 Dr. E. D. Adrian
	1947 Prof. G. H. Hardy
1927 Sir Charles Sherrington	1948 Prof. A. V. Hill
	1949 Prof. G. C. de Hevesy
1928 Sir Charles Parsons	1950 Sir James Chadwick
1929 Prof. Max Planck	1951 Prof. D. Keilin
1930 Sir William Bragg	1952 Prof. P. A. M. Dirac
1931 Sir Arthur Schuster	1953 Prof. A. J. Kluyver
1932 Dr. G. E. Hale	1954 Sir Edmund Whittaker
1933 Prof. T. Smith	

Whatever the conclusions of a reader may be, it is, however, well to remember the lines,

"This world is not for aye ; nor 'tis not strange
That even our love should with our fortunes change . . ."

and in spite of contending political systems and of national prejudices, no man of science will dispute the remark of Davy's that "Science like Nature, to which it belongs is neither limited by time or space. It belongs to the world and is of no country and no age".

OBITUARIES

Prof. A. F. Blakeslee

PROF. ALBERT FRANCIS BLAKESLEE, of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, died on November 16 at the age of eighty. Blakeslee will perhaps be remembered as a man who made more varied discoveries than any biologist of his time. Fifty years ago he observed that sexual reproduction in fungi was restricted by a genetic incompatibility, a principle which is now known to limit and direct sexual reproduction in plants and in the lower organisms generally. Thirty years ago in a large series of collaborative studies on *Datura* he began to show a whole unexpected range of chromosome changes (polyploidy, interchange, etc.) underlying the variation of the species. He pursued this work with unremitting zeal throughout his life. But concurrently he was showing how polyploidy could be induced in innumerable plants with the help of colchicine and he was investigating the genetics of the faculties of taste and smell in man as well as of fragrance in the plant itself. At the age of seventy-six, still a guest professor at Smith College, he attended the Stockholm Botanical Congress and gave papers on the chromosomes of species hybrids in *Datura*, on the use of chimæras in elucidating the germ layers of plants, on the culture of excised embryos as a means of growing inviable hybrids, and on the development of *Rudbeckia hirta* by selection from a wild species to a garden plant.

These were only the more successful inquiries that Blakeslee undertook. His energy and curiosity took him into many less productive fields. Two things strike one about his work. One is that he never made any serious mistake of observation. The other is that he never ventured far into interpretation or prediction after his early studies in fungi. Here his interpretation was unfortunate in that he tied the word sex to the property of incompatibility and thereby led his successors astray right down to the present day. In a sense the style of his work is best represented by his diagrams of *Datura* chromosomes as packets. These diagrams were useful in a popular sense so long as one did not take them too seriously. Unfortunately, it seems that Blakeslee did take them seriously. To him they were the real and final thing.

By his alertness and ingenuity and his practical sense in organizing the Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor (where he worked for thirty years, until his retirement in 1942), Blakeslee kept the botanical world of his day in a state of constant stimulation. C. D. DARLINGTON

Dr. Neville Jones, O.B.E.

NEVILLE JONES, whose death on October 24 has been reported from Bulawayo, was a pioneer in Rhodesian prehistory, and during the years 1913–47 worked out the complete succession of Stone Age cultures in the western part of Southern Rhodesia.

Born in London in 1880, he was educated at Dulwich College and, after working in various capacities, including an appointment as geologist to an expedition to Madagascar in 1906–7, he went to Southern Rhodesia as a missionary in 1912. On retiring from mission work at the age of fifty-five, he at once commenced a new profession and became the first keeper of prehistory at the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia in Bulawayo. Here he was able to devote his whole time to prehistory, and his best scientific work was done during the twelve years in which he held his Museum post.

Important as was his work on the Stone Age, it was by no means his only interest. As a missionary among the Matabele, he saw much of these people and published anthropological notes as well as a valuable historical study, "My Friend Kumalo" (1945). With one very important exception, his field-studies related to the Stone Age ; but the exception, the excavation of Mapungubwe in the Northern Transvaal in 1934, shows that Stone Age studies were not all-absorbing for him. His work at this site is incorporated in Prof. Fouche's "Mapungubwe" (1937). Besides his archæological work, he was a botanist and entomologist of no mean calibre, being especially interested in the collection and culture of South African xerophytic plants.

Jones was the moving spirit in the foundation of the Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics in Southern Rhodesia and was successively its secretary and its chairman.

His lack of formal academic qualifications never greatly worried him, for his wide correspondence enabled him to keep in touch with current thought in his subject ; nevertheless, the honorary doctorate conferred upon him by the University of the Witwatersrand during the last year of his life was the most highly prized of his honours.

Jones's work for prehistory will provide a basis which other workers, who knew him not, will accept or, perchance, reject ; to his colleagues throughout Southern Africa he has, however, left a personal legacy in his example of quiet, careful and unselfish work for which they are all the richer.

R. SUMMERS