

were gradually given up, but he did not rest much until near the end of his long life.

Fritsch's publications will remain standard works for some time to come. He himself will be missed by many as a strong supporter of order, prudence and loyalty.

E. G. FRINGSHEIM

THE botanical world, and more especially the phycological section of it, has suffered grievous loss in the passing of Prof. Fritsch. Few men have attained the degree of eminence to which, despite physical frailty, his intellectual power, human wisdom and qualities of leadership raised him.

His primary interest was in the freshwater algae, in the study of which he made notable contributions to knowledge; but his interests were wide, and in the related field of marine phycology, his encyclopædic knowledge and sound judgment made him one to whom research workers in Great Britain and overseas turned inevitably for opinion and guidance. Help was always given freely and generously. He had that faculty of detached consideration of other people's problems that is not only invaluable but is also heart-warming and stimulating.

Prof. Fritsch's work, whether designed for the needs of elementary students or research workers, was always characterized by meticulous accuracy and a wealth of detailed information. The two volumes, "The Structure and Reproduction of the Algae", must remain as classic for all time; the completeness of the bibliography would alone ensure their permanent value, and that, coupled with the breadth and precision of the text, establishes the volumes as a *vade mecum* for all phycologists.

Though valuable scientific contributions, remarkable both in quantity and quality, earned for Prof. Fritsch both respect and admiration, his delightful human qualities also drew forth affection. It was a privilege to be associated with him for more than thirty-five years, and to have received from him an early training in university examining, in which his breadth of scholarship, fair-mindedness—especially to those less gifted than himself in graceful expression—provided an example to be remembered and followed.

Prof. Fritsch found great relaxation in music, and many of his friends will cherish memories of delightful week-ends at his home in Surrey where he and Mrs. Fritsch dispensed gracious hospitality. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Prof. Fritsch moved to Cambridge, where his home became again a social centre and focal point for botanists, from Great Britain and overseas. He faced the problems of war, as indeed he faced all other difficulties, with calmness, merely taking every possible precaution to safeguard scientific material and then going on quietly with his work, adding still further to scientific knowledge. It is regrettable that he himself will not see the publication of his current work on the calcareous algae.

Those who were privileged to be admitted to the friendship of Prof. Fritsch will be glad to express personal gratitude for unstinted and generous encouragement and to join with vast numbers of those who knew him in extending their sympathy to Mrs. Fritsch and her son. She must surely find some measure of comfort and pride in the knowledge of the sincere esteem and affection in which her husband was held by scientists all over the world.

MARGERY KNIGHT  
LILY NEWTON

### Dr. Malcolm Burr

DR. MALCOLM BURR, whose death at the age of seventy-six, due to an accident, occurred on July 13 in Istanbul, was a most colourful figure. A mining engineer by training, he took part in the development of the Kent coalfield at the beginning of this century, prospected for coal in Angola and visited the Lena goldfields and manganese mines in the Caucasus between the two World Wars, not to mention many other professional tasks. His main scientific interest in life, however, was entomology, and even as a schoolboy he specialized in Orthoptera and Dermaptera. When only twenty years old, he visited Vienna and, under the stimulus of Dr. Brunner von Wattenwyl, produced a revision of the genus *Acrida*. A long series of articles on the systematics of other Orthoptera followed, as well as a monograph of the family Eumasticidae, the first of this group. His principal contribution was to the study of the Dermaptera, which he was the first to classify on the basis of the structure of the copulatory organs, and on which he published a classical revision in Wytzman's "Genera Insectorum", as well as a volume in the "Fauna of British India", apart from very numerous journal papers. Dr. Burr's valuable collection of world Dermaptera, containing many type-specimens, has been presented by him to the British Museum and his rich collection of European Orthoptera, including many collected by himself, to the Hope Museum, University of Oxford.

Financial misfortunes and a restless character made it impossible for Burr to settle down, and in his old age he became a journalist, author of delightful travel and natural history books and finally professor of English at Istanbul. One of his most remarkable abilities was the gift of learning languages—he spoke fluently all the European ones, including several Slavonic. His last letter to me, dated July 2, 1954, full of entomological inquiries, was written in a vivid, if not strictly grammatical, Russian, a language which he never attempted to learn, but merely 'picked up' during his visits to Russia more than thirty years ago and never forgot.

The Royal Entomological Society of London has lost in Dr. Burr one of its oldest Fellows, elected in 1896. Apart from his many publications, he rendered an important service to entomology by having been one of the active group which founded the International Entomological Congresses and the honorary secretary of their permanent executive committee until 1920.

B. P. UVAROV

### Dr. R. W. Pocock

DR. ROY WOODHOUSE POCOCK, formerly a district geologist of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and a member of its staff for thirty-six years, died suddenly on June 22, while on holiday in Brussels.

Pocock was born in 1887 and, after leaving school, he became an assistant in the Geological Department of the British Museum (Natural History), in the meanwhile working for an honours B.Sc. degree at evening classes at Birkbeck College, London. During this time he began an investigation of the Silurian inlier of Woolhope, Herefordshire, and discovered there a thin limestone largely composed of the remains of the crinoid *Petalocrinus*, previously known only from the Niagara Limestone of North America and the Silurian beds of Gotland. He presented specimens from Woolhope to the British Museum