

inative replacement by methods which increase output, lower costs and diminish the hazards, monotony and physical strain which the older methods involved. Along with the task of improving the training for management goes the greater task, in which every bit of assistance that the Press, broadcasting, television, adult education and other means can give will be needed, of securing the climate of opinion in industry and in society which will give wise and progressive management a chance to function.

MEN OF CAMBRIDGE

Alumni Cantabrigienses

A Biographical List of all known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge from the Earliest Times to 1900. Compiled by Dr. J. A. Venn. Part 2: From 1752 to 1900. Volume 6: Square-Zupitza. Pp. iv+627. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1954.) £10 10s. net. Complete set of 10 volumes, 85 guineas net.

THE president of Queens' College, Cambridge, Dr. J. A. Venn, is to be congratulated most heartily on the completion of his stupendous task in preparing for publication and seeing through the press the biographies of some 140,000 members of the University of Cambridge. It has occupied a great part of his time during the past forty-six years, during which he has served in a world war, carried out the duties of a university lecturer, president of a college and vice-chancellor of the University. He has been helped, naturally, by a small staff (for many years one assistant only), by volunteers from individual colleges and last but not least by the financial support and careful, accurate and pleasing workmanship of the University Press. More than six million words were typed and printed in the course of the work—and read over at least twice by the compiler.

It was to Dr. Venn that the idea of this publication was due in the first place. The sources that were used, the names of those who helped and the history of the whole work are given in the prefaces to volumes 1 of the two parts (to 1751 and 1752-1900) of the whole work. We should have liked to see an epilogue at the end of the last volume, in which Dr. Venn could have given an account of his work, looking back over the whole period from 1908 to the present. He gave a taste of the story that he had to tell in his reply to the congratulations of the University conveyed by the Vice-Chancellor at a reception to Dr. and Mrs. Venn organized by the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press on the day of publication of the tenth and last volume.

An analysis of the Fellows of the Royal Society noted in the present volume, more than a hundred in number, shows six presidents (Wollaston, the Duke of Sussex, Stokes, Kelvin, Rayleigh and J. J. Thomson), a predominance of mathematicians, followed by physicists, clerics, public servants, physicians and geologists in that order; among others, a dilettante, a poet (Tennyson) and a banker. Dr. Venn's father, Dr. John Venn, F.R.S., who kept the work going while Dr. Venn was absent on service during the First World War, and who is associated with Dr. Venn in some of the earlier volumes, is one of six generations of the Venn family to graduate in Cam-

bridge. Thomas Young added to his work as a physicist and physician philological skill which enabled him to find the key to the hieroglyphics on the Rosetta Stone. Two hardened Tories were C. P. Yorke, First Lord of the Admiralty, who strongly opposed the abolition of mutilation after execution for treason, and George Whitmore, tutor of St. John's, who addressed his pupils on "a laudable exhibition of justifiable zeal" in breaking the windows of many Dissenters. T. P. Thompson, who at the same time was a midshipman on H.M.S. *Isis* and a Fellow of Queens', had an unusual career: he described his fellowship as "a sort of promotion, which has not often gone along with the rank and dignity of a midshipman". In view of his start, it is not surprising to learn that he was later governor of Sierra Leone, a general in the Army and a Fellow of the Royal Society. Another Fellow, Richard Watson, was simultaneously professor of chemistry and regius professor of divinity, and later held his professorship of divinity along with the bishopric of Llandaff. He was elected to the chair of chemistry, "having never read a syllable on the subject nor seen a single experiment". That may explain why his workshop was afterwards shattered by an explosion; all the same, he is said to have saved the Government £100,000 by advice on the manufacture of gunpowder.

Such notes as the above in the biographies of eminent men may account for Miss Rose Macaulay's description of the "Alumni Cantabrigienses" as a bedside book. The size, weight and small print of the volumes are against such a description, but the biographies do yield many fascinating notes on men in all classes of society. Thus, Thomas Turner, a distinguished physician, was garrotted by ruffians at the age of ninety and was thereby cured of his goitre. John Steggall, who had run away from school and lived with gypsies, came up to Corpus Christi after having been to sea on a whaler and serving in the army in India. He later took Holy Orders and also practised as a surgeon. Edward Tatham preached a famous sermon, 2½ hours long, and left the subject of his discourse to be settled by the learned bench of bishops "who have little to do and do not always do that little". H. H. Vivian, while an undergraduate, brought to England the first camera to pass the London custom house, and afterwards took a daguerreotype, still extant, of a "Breakfast Party" of undergraduates. William Henry Waddington was later naturalized as a French citizen and became in due course Prime Minister of France. William Yardley made the first century in the University match. Edward Wilson of the Antarctic, who reached the South Pole with Captain Scott in 1912, and A. F. R. Wollaston, surgeon and naturalist to the first Mount Everest expedition in 1921, deserve mention among many distinguished Cambridge explorers.

But these volumes can serve many purposes more valuable than that of interesting the casual reader. Sir A. F. Rook has used them to disprove the common view that early subjection to severe athletic strain shortens men's lives, and Mr. Caradog Jones to pursue various sociological studies. The list of biographies provides a mine of information into which inquirers will delve for generations. It is good to know that the University has set up an organization to preserve its archives and to facilitate the work of Dr. Venn's successor, when the burden which he has now set down is taken up again some fifty years hence.

F. J. M. STRATTON