Dr. Stanley Smith

DR. STANLEY SMITH was born at Middlesbrough on March 7, 1883, and educated at Darlington Grammar School. On leaving school he worked in the chemical laboratory of the Darlington Forge Co., but in 1904 he entered Armstrong (now King's) College, Newcastle on Tyne, where he graduated in 1907, and took his M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees in 1909 and 1915, respectively.

Inspired by Prof. G. A. Lebour, Stanley Smith carried out investigations on the coalfields of Northumberland and the Carboniferous Limestone of the fells, his resulting paper (1911) on "The Faunal Succession of the Upper Bernician" being still a standard work. But, of greater importance, this research led him to take up the study of the Palaeozoic corals, in which he thereafter specialized. Election to a fellowship at Armstrong College in 1910 took him to Clare College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1912. His first paper on corals (1913), on ontogenesis and local variations in *Aulophyllum*, set the pattern for all his future work, for he insisted, as always, on the need for basing the revision of genera and species on the re-examination of the type specimens or, if they were unavailable, of topotypes. In his masterly paper on *Lonsdaleia* (1916), Stanley Smith wrote, "Inconstancy of detail, but conservation of the general plan, is the most characteristic feature of the skeletal morphology of Rugose genera", a statement repeatedly validated by later work. A stream of papers followed, either by him alone or in collaboration; these quickly established his world-wide reputation as the leading authority on Palaeozoic corals. Of peculiar interest was his description (1930) of Valentian corals from Shropshire and Montgomeryshire, for, apart from H. A. Nicholson and R. Etheridge's classic monograph of the Silurian fossils of the Girvan area, no extensive coral fauna of similar age had been previously described. All his papers were marked by careful observation, honest interpretation, and polished presentation. They have acted as models for almost all Palaeozoic coral research since, and, to quote a correspondent, "have really placed Palaeozoic coral work on its feet".

From 1913 Stanley Smith spent much time during vacations at the British Museum (Natural History), from which sprang his long association with Dr. W. D. Lang. Their collaboration resulted not only in several important works revising an extensive range of coral genera, but also in their enunciation (1930) of the concept of genomorphs, which has since been applied to other groups of fossils. The Museum published in 1940 the "Index of Palaeozoic Coral Genera", of which Stanley Smith was a part-author.

His investigations into the geology of the Bristol area led to two major stratigraphical contributions, namely, his recognition of Tremadocian Shales in the Tortworth inlier of Gloucestershire (1933), and his correlation of the high Viséan fauna of the Tanhouse Beds of Yate with the upper part of the P_2 zone (1941). With G. A. Kellaway he also described the only British Jurassic stromatoporoids known (1938), while earlier (1923) the Geological Survey had published his important report on the lead and zinc ores of Northumberland and Alston Moor. The award to him by the Geological Society of London of the Lyell Medal in 1947 for his palaeontological and stratigraphical researches was richly deserved.

Stanley Smith was also knowledgeable in Greek and Roman antiquities. For some years he had been

engaged with Mr. D. E. Eichholz, of the University of Bristol, on a new translation of Theophrastus's well-known treatise. His part was to interpret afresh Theophrastus's geological references and records, and to this he brought the same care and enthusiasm that characterized everything he undertook.

Stanley Smith spent his life in the university world. After appointments at Aberystwyth (1913-20), Bedford College for Women (1920-21), and Toronto (1921-22), he became assistant lecturer in geology in the University of Bristol (1922) and retired as reader in palaeontology in 1948. He played a full part in local scientific societies, and had been president of the South-Western Naturalists' Union, of which he was honorary secretary for many years.

To work closely with Stanley Smith was to discover a gentle, generous nature, and a lively sense of humour which was always kindly. He was an indefatigable worker, to whom the problem of the moment was all-absorbing. He freely gave of his knowledge, though always in the humble spirit which was one of his great traits. He never lost his innate modesty nor his charming, old-world courtesy, and he would exercise the greatest patience in trying to understand another's point of view. Above all, he was a very loyal colleague and friend.

During the last few years of his life, Stanley Smith suffered from a painful affliction of his back; but despite this he kept at his research work to the end. He died peacefully on July 1, 1955, after a heart attack. His wife, whom he married in 1924, survives him.

H. DIGHTON THOMAS

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, C.B.E.

JOHN BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON, familiarly known as 'Christo' to his friends, who died on July 21 at the age of eighty-seven, will be remembered for the varied and exciting career which he led as well as for the scientific work that he achieved. He will go down in medical history as the man who introduced the cure of bilharziasis (schistosomiasis) by intravenous injections of tartar emetic.

He had a good family and scientific background, being educated at Clifton College, Caius College, Cambridge, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He qualified in 1893 and soon afterwards was elected assistant surgeon to the Albert Dock Hospital under Mr. (afterwards Sir) James Cantlie, and he remained in London until 1901. Christopherson was therefore associated with the beginnings of the London School of Tropical Medicine and came under the influence of Sir Patrick Manson. In 1897 he took his final F.R.C.S. and eventually was elected F.R.C.P. in 1913. He was therefore doubly highly qualified. In 1901 he was swept into uniform and went to the South African War, becoming surgeon to the Imperial Yeomanry base hospital. After this experience, he joined in June 1902 the newly created Sudan Medical Service, first as the private doctor to the Sirdar, afterwards becoming director of medical services of the Sudan Government. Five years later he resigned this appointment and became director of the civil hospitals in Khartoum and Omdurman. He had now direct charge of clinical cases and made the most of the rich material under his care.

His career was once more broken by war, when he accompanied Sir James and Lady Berry's Red Cross Unit to Serbia as a surgeon. There he witnessed the break-up of Serbia and was taken prisoner by the

Austro-Hungarian armies. He was, however, soon rescued, and chivalrously released by Slatin Pasha, the Inspector General of the Sudan, who as an Austrian subject had stayed behind in his native country at the outbreak of war.

Early in 1916 Christopherson was in France as the secretary to the War Office Commission on Medical Establishments. Later in that year he was back in Khartoum, where he found several cases of kala-azar who were also infected with bilharziasis—*Schistosoma haematobium*. Having learned of Sir Leonard Rogers's discovery of the specificity of antimony (tartar emetic) in the treatment of kala-azar in Calcutta in 1914, he followed suit, but was surprised to see the schistosome eggs disappear also from the urine, until the cases were cured of both diseases. He also made the pregnant observation, which has since been many times confirmed, that the appearance of the eggs is

changed by antimony and that they no longer hatch in water. To Christopherson must therefore go the credit for this notable discovery.

On his return to England after the War, Christopherson was in charge of the bilharzia clinic of the Ministry of Pensions and cured many ex-Service men. He then became a specialist in pulmonary diseases and physician to the London Chest Hospital, was also physician for tropical diseases to the Royal Masonic Hospital and took an interest in the tropical diseases section of the Royal Society of Medicine. More than twenty years ago he retired to his country home, where he devoted himself to horticulture. Christopherson was a sympathetic and friendly person, whose great joy was to help others. He had several endearing and attractive mannerisms; but when occasion warranted he could be tough and firm.

P. MANSON-BAHR

NEWS and VIEWS

Presentation to Prof. F. J. M. Stratton, F.R.S.

ON August 23, in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society, the president, Sir Harold Jeffreys, presented to Prof. F. J. M. Stratton a copy of "Vistas in Astronomy" at a special conversazione. Those present included foreign astronomers visiting the United Kingdom prior to the ninth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union. On the same occasion, Prof. H. C. van de Hulst, of Leyden, received the Eddington Medal for 1955. It was originally the occasion of Prof. Stratton's seventieth birthday, after his retirement from the chair of astrophysics at Cambridge, that gave the inspiration for "Vistas in Astronomy", intended as a tribute from his former colleagues, students, friends and admirers everywhere. As publication plans progressed, and when the efforts of the editor, Dr. Arthur Beer, to obtain contributions from leading representatives of all nations met with such encouragement and an increasing number of acceptances, it became clear that this was to be something much more than a *Festschrift*. The final outcome is the present work: a generous and thorough cross-section through the whole of contemporary astronomy and its allied sciences, always emphasizing the lines along which research is particularly active at the moment, its new techniques and methods and their interaction with theoretical developments. These two volumes could be compared to the "Handbuch der Astrophysik", published in Germany before the War, although the present work is much wider in scope. It can rarely, if ever, have happened before that so many leading scholars in a single discipline have co-operated in one book on such a wide international scale; indeed, 215 authors from twenty-six nations have joined to produce 192 contributions. That this was possible is a fitting tribute to the international spirit which has permeated Prof. Stratton's life-work in and for astronomy. Practically every country in the world with an active astronomical life has contributed.

Physical Chemistry at Sheffield :

Prof. George Porter

DR. GEORGE PORTER, who has been appointed to the newly established chair of physical chemistry in the University of Sheffield, is distinguished for his pioneering contributions in the field of flash photo-

lysis and kinetic spectroscopy. He was Ackroyd Scholar of the University of Leeds, and after graduating in 1941 entered the Royal Navy, with which he served throughout the War as a specialist in the field of radar; he was demobilized in 1945 with the rank of lieutenant. He resumed his studies in the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge, where in due course he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. for his work on the development of the method and technique of flash photolysis. The application of this powerful method to the study of primary photochemical reactions, to the measurement of very rapid reactions between atoms and free radicals, and the reactions of explosion and combustion, has resulted in a large amount of new and important work published during the past seven years. Dr. Porter was appointed demonstrator in physical chemistry at Cambridge in 1949 and assistant director of research in 1953. He was elected to a fellowship at Emmanuel College in 1952. In 1954 he joined the British Rayon Research Association as assistant director, where he was associated with the launching of the new laboratories recently opened by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. His many friends in Cambridge and the academic world at large will welcome his return to university life, and wish him every success in the building of his new research department.

United Kingdom Agricultural and Food Representatives in Canada : Mr. Gilbert S. Lawrie

MR. GILBERT S. LAWRIE, senior inspector in the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, has been appointed agricultural and food adviser to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ottawa, in succession to Mr. W. F. Darke, who has completed his tour of duty in Canada. Mr. Lawrie, who is thirty-nine years old, was educated at George Watson's Boys College, the University of Edinburgh and the East of Scotland College of Agriculture. His academic awards include the Stevens Scholarship in agriculture and the Wardlaw-Ramsay Memorial Prize and Medal for the most distinguished student. He was president of the Edinburgh University Agricultural Society and leader of the College of Agriculture livestock judging team. His practical experience includes two years work on arable, stock and dairy farms, eleven years on work closely connected with practical farming, and a short period on the