

A detailed report of this work will be published elsewhere. I wish to thank Prof. A. Tiselius for his interest and advice.
[Feb. 11]

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OBITUARIES

Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor

THE death of Dr. Frank Sherwood Taylor, director of the Science Museum, on January 5, at the early age of fifty-eight, has removed from the scientific life of Great Britain one whose interests transcended the narrow limits of his original specialist studies in chemistry and who had become widely known as a historian of science and as a very skilful expounder of the intricacies of modern science to the layman.

Born on November 26, 1897, Taylor was educated at Sherborne and at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he was elected to a classical scholarship. The First World War interrupted his studies and deflected his interests from classics to chemistry. After graduating, he taught chemistry at various schools, including Gresham's and Repton, and during 1933-38 he was assistant lecturer in chemistry in Queen Mary College, London. In the meantime, he had obtained the degree of Ph.D. in the University of London for his historical researches on Greek alchemy as the first student in the newly established Department of the History and Method of Science in University College. In 1940 he became curator of the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, where he remained until he was appointed director of the Science Museum, London, in 1950.

Sherwood Taylor, as he was generally known, was always deeply interested in alchemy and the alchemists; he would spare no pains in attempting to understand the most obscure writers and in trying to explain their words in more familiar and comprehensible terms. It was with the greatest enthusiasm, therefore, that he took a most active part in founding in 1937 the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry and in acting as honorary editor of its journal, *Ambix*, from its first appearance in 1937. A similar enthusiasm marked his support of the British Society for the History of Science when it was founded in 1947, and he served the Society as president during 1951-53.

Apart from many papers in specialist journals, such as *Ambix* and the *Annals of Science*, Taylor wrote extensively on the history of science, on chemistry and on alchemy, and also on religious topics. His earliest books were text-books of chemistry, and these were marked by a clear and attractive style as well as by the high standard of presentation of the material. He will, however, be best remembered for his books on the history of science: "Galileo and the Freedom of Thought" (1938), "A Short History of Science" (1939), "The Century of Science" (1940), "Science Past and Present" (1945), "The Alchemists" (1952), "An Illustrated History of Science" (1955), embodying the Christmas Lectures that he gave at the Royal Institution in 1953, and "A History of Industrial

Chemistry" (1955). To the general reader he was also known for his remarkable presentation of modern science in "The World of Science" (1936), a work of more than a thousand pages that has retained its well-deserved popularity after the lapse of twenty years.

In the later part of his life Taylor was received into the Roman Catholic Church. He was always deeply concerned in religious matters, although not given to parade his views. Those who had known him long were aware of a strong mystical element in his thought. His writings on religion include "The Fourfold Vision" (1945) and "Two Ways of Life" (1947). His scholarship, his tolerance, his gentle ways, his regard for science as part of man's cultural heritage will long be remembered. Few of those who recall him will know that he was severely wounded at Passchendaele on October 10, 1917, while serving with an infantry unit of the Honourable Artillery Company, and fewer still know that he was at the time voluntarily taking the place of an older man.

DOUGLAS MCKIE

Dr. E. W. Gudger

THE death occurred on February 19 of Dr. Eugene Willis Gudger, one of the oldest staff members of the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Gudger would have been ninety in August.

Dr. Gudger was born on August 10, 1866, in the mountain section of North Carolina, the son of a circuit judge. Both his parents were descendants of the British settlers of that area and he was very proud of the fact that the name Gudger had originally been Macgregor. He was educated at southern schools and took his doctorate at Johns Hopkins. He then taught general science, first in a secondary school in Little Rock, Arkansas, where his pupils were little younger than he, and then for twenty-five years in the North Carolina College for Women. For many years he went to reunions of the Little Rock class he had taught, and some of his old pupils there remained his closest friends.

In 1919, Dr. Gudger went to the American Museum of Natural History to edit the third volume of Bashford Dean's "Bibliography of Fishes", and after Dr. Dean's death, in 1928, took on the difficult task of editing the Dean Memorial volumes, and was in charge of the Dean Memorial Library and of the card catalogue which until 1938 continued the Bibliography.

In 1921 he was appointed associate in ichthyology, and in 1935 this title was changed to the regular staff appointment of associate curator of fishes. In 1938 Dr. Gudger became one of the honorary staff of the Department of Fishes, but continued as librarian of the Dean Memorial Library. In 1952, his age and