

OBITUARIES

Sir Harold Scott, K.C.M.G.

SIR HAROLD SCOTT, who died at Braintree on August 6, shortly after his eighty-second birthday, was widely known as a pathologist, a historian of tropical medicine, and an editor. After taking medical qualifications in 1897, he served in the South African War, returned to England and entered general practice and then went to Jamaica as Government pathologist. The First World War brought him once more into the R.A.M.C., and after its conclusion he became Milner Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he elucidated the life-history of *Hymenolepis*. He was then appointed Government pathologist at Hong Kong, retaining this post for several years until compelled to retire through ill-health. Later he became pathologist to the Zoological Society of London, medical secretary of the Colonial Medical Research Committee, and in turn assistant director (1930) and director (1935) of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, until his retirement in 1942.

As a pathologist he published a large number of papers and monographs on tropical subjects—particularly on the vomiting sickness of Jamaica, the central neuritis of Jamaica, and on tuberculosis in man and lower animals (based on his experience in Hong Kong and at the Zoo). He wrote several books, including "Some Notable Epidemics" (1934), but his most important literary work was his great "History of Tropical Medicine" (1939), which has been recognized throughout the world as a masterpiece. At the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases he edited the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* and the *Bulletin of Hygiene*, and it was under his direction that the *Bulletin of War Medicine* was created. He was appointed C.M.G. in 1935 and K.C.M.G. in 1941.

Scott was for many years associated with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, of which, to his great pleasure, he was elected president in 1943.

One of his most outstanding characteristics was a capacity for hard, sustained and conscientious work. He was a man of high intelligence and quick decision, and he worked rapidly, leaving himself ample time for the voracious reading which was his chief relaxation. He was a great buyer of books on all kinds of subjects, and accumulated a large and varied library, particularly rich in historical works. He loved his canaries and budgerigar, and the animals at the Zoo, and this no doubt stimulated his interest in the immense subject of the animal reservoirs of human disease, so important in tropical medicine.

Scott was a delightful companion, full of humour, which on occasion could be pointed, but which was modified by a rather old-world courtesy. Physically he was slight, good-looking, and always immaculately dressed. He moved with ease and assurance among the leaders of his profession and made many friends. His first wife died in 1933; his second wife, Eileen Anne, daughter of the Rev. R. P. Prichard, survives him.

CHARLES WILCOCKS

Dr. E. Leonard Gill

E. LEONARD GILL died in Cape Town on July 5. He was born in Reigate and after attending a Friends school, entered Owens College, Manchester, graduating

in 1899. He then became a member of the museum staff at Manchester and so gained experience in museum arts and management. Later, he became curator of the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. Here he was responsible for large, important collections of fossils, birds and marine invertebrates, as well as the general contents of an old-established natural history museum. The maintenance of this large building, very old-fashioned in its design and furnishing, also fell to him, and the funds of the Society which owned it were, even then, inadequate.

Gill served in the Friends Ambulance throughout the First World War, returning to the Museum, when he began to modernize some exhibits. In 1922 he accepted a post in the Royal Scottish Museum; but in 1924 he became director of the South African Museum, Cape Town.

In the seventeen years he spent in this post, Gill revolutionized the Museum; its size was nearly doubled, the exhibition galleries were modernized and enlarged, and the scope of the Museum was extended to cover not only important South African antiquities, but also some art collections. Gill wrote descriptive labels, in Africaans as well as English, which brought the Museum into much closer touch with the general public, and increased this contact by circulating specially made museum cases to schools.

Gill published a few useful papers on fossil fish; but his chief interest was in birds. On his first visit to the Museum in Cape Town, he found on his table a dead bird just picked up and brought in. On its leg was a ring which Gill himself had placed there at a nest in the Farne Islands. Gill found that there was no small cheap book about South African birds, so that it was impossible for any ordinary man to know them, and thus to observe them intelligently. Hence he wrote an inexpensive book with many small but admirable figures drawn by Gill himself and his artist sister. This book was most useful, not only in South Africa but even farther north, and it has gone through several editions.

Gill added to the general interest in natural history, by newspaper articles in Africaans as well as English, and by lecture talks. Also he founded the South African Ornithological Society, which recently celebrated its silver jubilee.

Gill was a man of unusual character, willing to take great trouble to help anybody, friendly and helpful to everyone.

D. M. S. WATSON

Mr. John A. Marsh

THROUGH the death of John Anderson Marsh, which occurred on July 1, the Chester Beatty Research Institute (Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital) has lost a greatly valued chief technician who had given it his loyal service for more than forty-six years. Appointed to the Institute on its foundation in 1909, he then worked for its first director, Alexander Paine, and for Casimir Funk and Jack (later Sir Jack) Drummond, at that time engaged in investigations of the 'vitamines' and of the amino-acid composition of tumours, respectively. Under his later directors, Archibald Leitch and Sir Ernest Kennaway, he played an essential part in assisting their contributions in the field of chemical carcinogenesis, first in studies with coal-tar, and later in the great development of the cancer-producing hydrocarbons.