

Mrs. Alice Sophia Cooke

Mrs. ALICE SOPHIA COOKE (Mrs. A. S. Bacon), head of the Biology Department of Brighton Technical College during 1920-30, died at her home in Hassocks, Sussex, on May 21. Mrs. Cooke was born in London in 1890. In 1909 she obtained a Drapers' Company scholarship from the City of London School for Girls to the East London College (now Queen Mary College). There, as one of the late Prof. F. E. Fritsch's first students, she took her B.Sc. honours degree in botany in 1912, and was then appointed assistant biology mistress at the Swindon and North Wiltshire Secondary School and Technical Institute. In the following year she went to Huddersfield Technical College as assistant lecturer in biology, and in 1920 was appointed lecturer in biology at Brighton Technical College. Until her arrival at Brighton no systematic teaching in biology was undertaken there, but within five years a number of her students had obtained University of London honours degrees in botany, and the courses for the intermediate, first M.B. and matriculation examination were all well established.

She will be remembered as an inspiring and dedicated teacher who might have achieved great distinction in research. Instead she spared no pains in providing her students with a balanced training in botany in which each branch was introduced with an equally infectious enthusiasm. To her students

her standards appeared appallingly high, but they were invariably achieved by a careful blend of admonition and encouragement. Outside the university examination courses she took a great deal of practical interest in her evening classes in horticultural botany for gardeners, and she was also well known for her activities in the educational field, more especially in the teaching of science.

As a field botanist Mrs. Cooke had an unrivalled knowledge of the Sussex flora and had travelled widely both in the British Isles and on the Continent, in the course of which she built up a remarkable collection of botanical material including an extensive bryophyte herbarium, all of which was constantly used in her lecture courses.

She was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in 1922 and also belonged to the British Bryological Society, the British Ecological Society, the British Mycological Society, the Brighton and Hove Natural History Society and the Freshwater Biological Association.

Mrs. Cooke had great personal charm; she would generously give her time to others, and she followed the subsequent careers of her students with interest. Her influence on botany has been indirect, through her students, and the many botanists, zoologists, pharmacists and others whom she trained have derived immeasurable benefit from the teaching of one of the most able of botanical teachers.

P. K. C. AUSTWICK

NEWS and VIEWS

Manchester Museum :

Mr. R. U. Sayce

MR. R. U. SAYCE, who is shortly retiring from the keepership of the Manchester Museum in the University of Manchester, was appointed to that post in 1935, and since that year has done much to modernize the display. He has had the task of keeping the balance between the two major responsibilities of the Museum, namely, those of making the collections attractive to the public, while at the same time maintaining their value to students from the University. Throughout this period Mr. Sayce has also maintained close co-operation with local learned societies, undertaken much research, published the results of his work, and acted as honorary editor to the *Montgomeryshire Collections* for more than twenty-five years. Throughout he has organized an invigorating schools service, thus bringing an atmosphere of freshness and vitality to the Museum. In 1941 he was president of the north-western Federation of Museums and Art Galleries and in the national sphere was president of Section H at the Brighton meeting of the British Association in 1948. Mr. Sayce has served museums and scholarship with distinction, and in his retirement intends to continue his work in both these interests.

Dr. D. E. Owen

DR. DAVID E. OWEN, who is to succeed Mr. Sayce as keeper of the Manchester Museum, is by training a geologist who has specialized in the administration of museums. Appointed curator in geology at the Public Museum, Liverpool, in 1935, he became

director of the City Museum, Leeds, in 1947 and has now completed ten years in that city. While at Leeds he has planned and built a model coal mine, planned two streets of craft workshops at the Abbey House Museum and has recently been responsible for the layout of an instructive Geological Garden. He has always been interested in the relationship of the Museum with the public and has done much to bring museums to the attention of the ordinary individual. In the wider sphere, he has given much voluntary service to the aims and objects of the Museums Association and is now its honorary treasurer. Dr. Owen will thus bring to Manchester a wealth of experience in modern display, a deep conviction of the value of museums and an academic approach which is so essential in a university museum.

Radiation Research Visiting Club

A Radiation Research Visiting Club was formed in 1953 in response to a desire among radiobiologists in Britain to meet one another and to visit each others laboratories. An invitation list was compiled of institutes and laboratories where work is in progress in the field of radiation biology, radiation medicine, radiation physics and radiation chemistry, and to this list was added the names of a number of individuals known to be working in this field but unattached to any of the enrolled laboratories. Four meetings of the Club have been held, and each has been organized entirely by the host institute. At the present time the Club is very informal in nature,