

Dr. Paul Rivet

THE death on March 21 of Dr. Paul Rivet has terminated a long and distinguished career in the anthropological study of the New World. He was born in 1876, and his early training was in medicine. He took part as medical officer in the French geodetic expedition to measure an arc of the meridian in Ecuador between 1899 and 1906, and this determined his future career. He became interested in the archaeology and ethnology of the country, and this laid the foundation of the knowledge and love of Latin America which made him a revered figure throughout the area. His work during the expedition resulted in the publication with Dr. R. Verneau of "Ethnographie Ancienne de l'Équateur", which still furnishes useful information about that little-known country.

In 1908, he was appointed deputy director of the Anthropological Laboratory of the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, and some years later he became director of the Musée d'Ethnographie du Trocadero, which grew up under him into the Musée de l'Homme, so that he was able to refer in 1947 to that great building as "this house for which I worked for thirty years". Too soon after its opening in 1938, he was removed from his post by the Vichy Government, and after a time his activities as an organizer of resistance got him into trouble with the authorities and he had to flee overseas. He remained in Latin America, chiefly in Mexico and Colombia, for the rest of the War, to return to his post in triumph at its conclusion. He retired in 1947.

This is not the place to write of Rivet's political activities, except to say that his influence stood him in good stead in the organization of the 28th International Congress of Americanists in Paris in 1947. At the previous congress in Mexico in 1939, it had been resolved that the next one should be in Paris. A lesser man might have been daunted by the difficulty of organizing a congress in post-war France at that time; but Rivet seized the opportunity, and by arranging that the delegates should be entertained by the President of the Republic, the National Assembly and the Municipality of Paris, he set a standard which few countries could emulate, and showed that French anthropology was full of life in spite of the country's troubles. The Americanist Congresses, which normally take place every two years, owe much to him, and for many years he held high office in them. He was a great orator, and his speeches at these Congresses, particularly as president

of that held in Paris, will not soon be forgotten by the delegates. He was prominent in Unesco and other international organizations. He has justly been described as for many years the heart and soul of the Société des Américanistes de Paris, of which he was secretary-general and editor of the *Journal*.

His reputation in Latin America was vividly shown by his reception in Lima in 1951, when he represented his country at the first International Congress of Peruvianists. At the age of seventy-five he was able to stand the strain of flying up to the great altitude of Cuzco at the end of the Congress, when much younger delegates were judged unfit to do so, and on arrival he lost no time in continuing his researches on the Quechua language in the libraries of that ancient city, in connexion with his great compilation of a complete bibliography of everything that has been written in Quechua and Aymara.

Rivet's numerous contributions to anthropology include papers on ethnology and physical anthropology, but the greatest number, spread over nearly fifty years, are connected with South American languages. He believed that there were relationships between the Malayo-Polynesian and Australian languages on one hand, and certain South American ones on the other, and he also maintained that there were actual migrations of both races to South America. He held that the Australians came first, by way of some small islands and the Antarctic continent when its fringes may have been free from ice during the climatic optimum about six thousand years ago, a view with which most archaeologists disagree violently. Another highly controversial matter was his persistent advocacy of an early "Lagoa Santa" race of Australian and Melanesian affinities in America. The reaction of many physical anthropologists to this is illustrated by the following quotation: "That able and clever partisan, Paul Rivet, promoted them [the Lagoa Santa skulls] to racial status in 1908 in connection with a description of 17 crania from rock shelters near Paltacalo in Ecuador. . . . The Paltacalo skulls have thus acquired a fuzzy aura of antiquity and the Lagoa Santa crania have become the homotypes of a new 'race' consisting of about 35 examples". In his later years Rivet tended to ignore the controversies and to speak as if his views were proved beyond doubt, an attitude which many of his colleagues found exceedingly exasperating; but they will not soon forget his enthusiasm, his energy and his friendly encouragement of younger men.

G. H. S. BUSHNELL

NEWS and VIEWS

Meldola Medal for 1957 : Dr. D. J. Manners

DR. DAVID JOHN MANNERS has been awarded the Meldola Medal for 1957 by the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, with the concurrence of the Society of Maccabæans, in whose gift it is. Dr. Manners graduated in Cambridge, where he began research in the Biochemistry Department in 1949, under Dr. D. J. Bell, where he investigated the molecular structure of glycogen by chemical, physico-chemical and enzymic methods. During 1951 he visited the Institut Pasteur in Paris, to study microbiological techniques. After receiving the Ph.D. degree in 1952, he was appointed lecturer in chemistry

in the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Manners has successfully applied periodate oxidation and enzymic degradation methods to the investigation of the fine structure of polysaccharides from protozoa, photosynthetic plants, freshwater and marine algae and from lichens. Studies on glycogen have continued, and methods for determining the degree of multiple branching in starch-type polysaccharides have been devised. He has also investigated the preparation and properties of several enzymes metabolizing carbohydrates, including β -glucosidases from barley and α -glucosidases from yeast. A survey of the enzyme systems in marine algae has been initiated,