Prof. J. A. Hanley

THE death of Prof. J. A. Hanley on April 10 occurred after several years of physical handicap, gallantly borne with the help of his devoted wife, following a breakdown in health he suffered in the post-war years. He has been living during this period of retirement from his academic career in Applethwaite, near Keswick. His last appointment was that of professor of agriculture and rural economy in King's College, University of Durham, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he directed the work of the School of Agriculture and Cockle Park (then Northumberland County Experimental Station, now owned by the College) from 1931 until 1947.

Hanley, who received his school education at Wakefield Grammar School, served later in the county of his birth and forbears as lecturer in agricultural chemistry and advisory chemist in the University of Leeds. Prior to this appointment he had obtained the degree of Ph.D., University of Munich, as well as becoming an associate of the Royal College of Science, for which he studied in London. Before going to Leeds he had been engaged in research at Rothamsted, and was Board of Agriculture Research Scholar during 1912-14. From Leeds he went as professor of agriculture and chief advisory officer in the University of Bristol, where he served from 1924 until 1927, whence he became principal of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, where he continued during 1927-31. His appointment to the chair of agriculture at Newcastle—in succession to the famed Somerville, Middleton and Gilchrist—was made in 1931.

There is no doubt that he experienced much satisfaction from the opportunities afforded him in the scientific directorship of Cockle Park—an office which devolves on the professor of agriculture in King's College—for Hanley's major interest in agriculture was the subject of grassland management. As early as 1927 he was the joint author with Prof. R. G. Stapledon of the book "Grass Land: its Management and Improvement", published by the Oxford University Press, and in subsequent years he was responsible for the Ministry of Agriculture's well-known bulletin on "Grassland", as well as for several of the Ministry's leaflets on various aspects of the same subject. He was a leading spirit in the national campaign for grassland improvement, taking a prominent part as judge and adviser in the grassland competitions organized in the four northern counties of England during the early 'thirties.

While giving much attention to grassland, especially to the then recent developments in its utilization as dried grass and silage, in which subject he carried out early investigations at Cockle Park, Hanley had a wide knowledge of agriculture and agricultural education. In a volume of essays presented to Sir Daniel Hall on "Agriculture of the 20th Century", published in 1939, Hanley's fine contribution was a comprehensive study entitled "Agricultural Education in College and County".

Among his original contributions when at King's College was a survey of agriculture in the Northern Province (Counties Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland), made possible by a financial grant given by the Right Hon. David Lloyd George. Although this was a comparatively quick survey, the report published in 1936 gives an informative account of the agriculture of the area which for the purpose of the survey was divided into twenty districts; Hanley being assisted in this extensive

project by two of his students, Messrs. Boyd and Williamson.

As in the case of his predecessors mentioned in the chair of agriculture, King's College, he formed many mutually helpful friendships with northern farmers—as, for example, D. J. Brown of West Larmouth, and J. B. Barr of Pressen—the study of whose farms, and discussion of changes in management, resulted in his contribution to the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, entitled "Tweedside Farming Enterprises", which itself is a typical example of the wide range of subjects on which he wrote for various journals. In his latter years he was editor of a series of four volumes published by Caxton in November 1949, under the title of "Progressive Farming".

During the Second World War, from 1940 onwards, he became the Ministry of Agriculture's liaison officer for the northern counties in connexion with the food production campaign.

From my personal knowledge as a colleague for the period of his professorship at King's College, I knew him to be a very good teacher, whose courses of lectures on soils and geology are remembered. He showed a greatly appreciated interest in the social and athletic activities of his students, being *inter alia* a keen supporter of their Rugby achievements, to which a photograph (still hanging in the Dean's private room in the School of Agriculture) bears testimony showing him surrounded by members of the team. No one who knew him intimately could fail to be aware of his emphasis on efficiency and his keen interest in his work as a teacher and adviser on agriculture, and of his continuous desire to make his contribution to the progress of that distinctive movement in the present century towards the improvement in management of the grassland of Great Britain.

H. CECIL PAWSON

Dr. F. Jones

DR. FRANCIS JONES, T.D., died suddenly at Crowborough on February 28.

Francis Jones was born at Belper, Derbyshire, in 1887. He was educated at Wirksworth Grammar School, graduated at the University of London, and later took his Ph.D. in geology. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers during the First World War and served in France, Gallipoli and Egypt. He taught as a science master, first in Leicester and then from 1929 until 1947 at St. Dunstan's College, London, where he served as commanding officer of the Officers Training Corps for eight years. During this period he also acted as head of the Department of Geology at the Northern Polytechnic. Between 1926 and 1936 he published a number of papers on his researches on the petrology of the Pre-Cambrian rocks of Charnwood Forest.

His love of geology and young people coupled with his tremendous energy would not allow him to retire, and in 1947, at the age of sixty, he joined the staff of the Geology Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he remained until 1958; at the same time he continued until his death his teaching at the Northern Polytechnic. In the lecture theatre and the laboratory he was insistent on fundamentals. Influenced by his great friend, the late Dr. Alfred Brammall, he brought his knowledge of chemistry to bear on theoretical aspects of mineralogy and petrology, and his lectures and discussions on

these topics were a stimulus to all those who were privileged to hear them.

Anxious to use every minute of his day, he turned the accumulated knowledge of his academic career to the problems of engineering geology, and from the age of sixty-one until his death worked during vacations as a consultant geologist on civil engineering projects in Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Ghana, the Sudan and on the Kariba Dam in Central Africa. His kind but rugged features were a true expression of his character. He possessed a physical toughness and endurance which were remarkable for a man of his age. Twenty miles a day on foot in the deserts of the Middle East or the bush of Africa left him undaunted; he invariably led the way. His only admission of physical discomfort was at the age of seventy, when he said that he felt somewhat sore after riding on horseback for two days through the Elburz Mountains of Iran.

Loyalty was the keynote of his personal life, and despite the failing health of his last two months he travelled to various parts of the country to fulfil lecture engagements regardless of the advice of his doctor and friends. It was his sense of loyalty supported by his great physical courage which carried him from his home at Crowborough to London to give his last lecture to his students at Northern Polytechnic ten days before he died.

D. J. SHEARMAN

Dr. August Gansser-Burckhardt

DR. AUGUST GANSSE-BURCKHARDT, who died on January 27 at his home in Basle, will be remembered by many for his achievements in fields on the borderlines of technology, and by his friends for his radiant personality. He was born in Milan in 1876. After passing the examination in chemistry at the Federal Technical College in Zurich, he obtained a doctorate at the University of Zurich in 1900. After one year's further study in London, Dr. Gansser began his life-long association with the family enterprise, the present S.A. Ledoga in Milan, manufacturers of vegetable tannins and natural dyes. It was at an opportune time, since Dr. Lepetit had just worked out his revolutionary process of making cold-water soluble quebracho extract by sulphitation. Gansser contributed substantially to the success of this venture. Since 1917, he had resided at the old home of his family, Basle, serving as the international co-ordinator for the family concern.

Along with his business activity, two major inquiries became gradually the all-absorbing interests in his life. His name will always be connected with the battle against the warble fly and with his contributions to the ancient history of leather. His fight for the eradication of the warble fly, which not only inflicts sufferings on cattle but also does a great deal of damage, resulting in much decreased value of the hides and impaired yields of milk and meat, made him well known throughout the world. His untiring efforts in this vital crusade were recognized by his Alma Mater by the award of the honorary degree of D.V.M. His second interest was archaeology, particularly the study and analysis of finds from excavations of Roman settlements on the Continent and particularly of sites in Italy. His broad humanistic knowledge and his scientific training became a most effective combination in this pioneering research. He handled the archaeological issues as well as the chemical analysis of the finds most competently.

Dr. Gansser was the founder of the Swiss Society of Leather Chemists, and he was instrumental in re-establishing international contacts after the two World Wars. At the time of the first one, he served as the president of the International Society of Leather Chemists.

Dr. Gansser was a man of wide culture, embodying the best traditions of his beloved Switzerland and Italy, and of kind and unassuming disposition. His sterling personality and his talents as a linguist and speaker—with five languages ready to his service—made him a well-known, and lately legendary, figure at international gatherings in his field of work for more than half a century.

K. H. GUSTAVSON

Mr. F. H. Edmunds

WITH the death of Francis Hereward Edmunds on April 19 at Westhumble, Surrey, British practical geology lost an exponent whose work had long been an encouragement to civil engineers and many other professional men seeking advice on geological problems. His friendly guidance will no less be missed by innumerable students, research workers, amateur geologists, naturalists and interested laymen in the south of England. Many will recall with pleasure the field excursions led by Edmunds and the lectures he was always pleased to give to promote popular understanding of the influence and application of geology. Most of all, however, he will be missed by his colleagues on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, where he served from 1922 until 1957 and was always happy to encourage the younger geologist.

Edmunds was proud to own himself a native of Wiltshire. He was born at Mere in 1893 and was educated at Gillingham Grammar School, in the neighbouring county of Dorset. After serving in France as a captain in the Tank Corps during the First World War, he went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he made many friends in the University. He obtained first-class honours in geology in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1922.

Throughout his career on the Geological Survey, Edmunds maintained his strong interest in geological mapping. Large areas on a number of published 1 in. to the mile maps, notably in Surrey, are the result of this work, and Edmunds was part-author of the explanatory memoirs on the Reigate, Guildford and Romford districts. Among other official publications, he was author of "British Regional Geology: The Wealden District" and part-author of "The Central England District" in the same series. Edmunds compiled a memoir on "The Wells and Springs of Sussex", and published papers in the *Journal of the Institution of Water Engineers* and elsewhere. During his period in charge of a small unit formed at the Geological Survey in 1936 on the request of the Inland Water Survey Committee, Edmunds organized the systematic collection and collation of well-records and undertook many advisory duties for Government departments and the Services, particularly during the Second World War. During 1945-57 Edmunds was district geologist for South-Eastern England.

Perhaps the strongest appeal of his book, "Geology and Ourselves", lies in its treatment of aspects of civil engineering and geology in everyday life. Edmunds also wrote and lectured with authority on the geology of scenery, of soils and of building materials. He was president of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies in 1949 and took an