

Dr. F. U. Klaehn

DR. FRIEDRICH U. KLAEHN, associate professor of silviculture at the State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University, died suddenly of a heart attack in Crouse-Irving Hospital on October 21, aged forty-six.

An international authority on forest tree genetics and efforts to improve forest tree species, Dr. Klaehn was born and educated in Germany. He was a native of Essen-Steele, Ruhr, where he was born on October 27, 1915. He was a holder of forestry and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Göttingen, Göttingen, West Germany. His two degrees were earned in 1949 and 1950, respectively. He went to Syracuse on his appointment to the College of Forestry faculty on October 1, 1955. He was a member of the faculty and research staff of the Department of Silviculture.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Ingrid H. Schrader, two children and his parents.

Dr. Carl R. Eklund

DR. CARL R. EKLUND, noted Antarctic explorer and chief of Polar and Arctic research for the United States Army, died suddenly on November 4, 1962, in Philadelphia, where he had been lecturing at the Museum of Natural Science. He was fifty-three years old.

A native of Tomahawk, Wisconsin, he was given the key to the city last year as an "honoured son", during its Diamond Jubilee celebration. Dr. Eklund graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota, in 1932, and began his twenty-nine years of Government service as a forestry foreman in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park. In 1936, he transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a research biologist and ornithologist, serving in various locations, including Michigan, Oregon, Illinois, and Washington. He received his master's degree from Oregon State College in 1936. During the Second World War, he served as a major in the Arctic section of the Arctic Desert Tropic Information Center of the Army Air Forces and was assigned to missions in Greenland and Canada. His last post with the Fish and Wildlife Service before his resignation in 1957 was as assistant regional director in Atlanta, Georgia. During the International Geophysical year, 1957-58, Eklund served for eighteen months as scientific leader at Wilkes Station, Antarctica. His thesis for his Ph.D. degree at the University of Maryland in 1959 was based on his work at Wilkes, where he solved the mystery concerning the penguin egg's incubation temperature by 'borrowing' an egg from the Adelle penguin, implanting a tiny temperature sensor and radio transmitter, and replacing the egg in the nest. He then monitored its average temperature, which he found to be 92.7 degrees, only 11.1 degrees lower than the body temperature of the bird which was incubating them, despite the surrounding sub-zero temperatures. In 1958, on his return from the Antarctic, he was appointed chief of the Polar and Arctic Branch of the Army Research Office.

Dr. Eklund made his first trip to the South Polar continent during 1939-41 as a member of the late Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd's expedition, during which he and Finn Ronne made one of history's major Antarctic treks. They travelled 1,264 miles by dog-sled in 84 days, charting and mapping more than 350 miles of the Antarctic coast, and discovered a group of islands in King George VI Sound, which has since been named the Eklund Islands. He and Ronne also determined that Alexander 1 Land is an island, linked to the mainland only by floating ice in a trough more than three times the length of Long Island Sound.

Dr. Eklund received international recognition for his work as an explorer and scientist. Recently he had returned from Paris, where he was an official representative of the Committee on Polar Research of the United States National Academy of Sciences. He was a member

of the Explorers Club and was founder and first president of the Antartican Society in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Eklund will be missed by his many friends and colleagues. He was one of the rare men who had no enemies; he had a great sense of humour and a kind attitude to his fellow man which made him a valued companion.

He is survived by his widow, Harriet, and two daughters, Linda and Signe.

KAARE RØDAHL

Mr. N. M. H. Lightfoot

NICHOLAS MORPETH HUTCHINSON LIGHTFOOT, principal of the Chelsea College of Science and Technology, died on November 20 at the age of sixty. Lightfoot was educated at Jarrow Grammar School, Co. Durham, proceeding from there by scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read mathematics. During 1929-43 he served on the mathematics staff of the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, first as lecturer and later as head of the Department. In 1943 he was appointed principal of the South-East Essex Technical College, Dagenham. He moved to Chelsea in 1950, where he was principal until his death.

At the beginning of his career he published papers on the mathematical theory of cooling steel, but later became primarily a teacher and then administrator.

During his long service as principal, first at Dagenham and later at Chelsea, he played an active part in matters concerning technical education and was elected president of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions in 1955-56. He also served on the National Council for Technological Awards, the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and the Regional Advisory Council.

His period as principal at Chelsea was marked by rapid developments in the College as the result of the change of status to a College of Advanced Technology, by which the old Chelsea Polytechnic became the Chelsea College of Science and Technology. This change required important decisions as to the proper direction for the future of the College. Up to the time of designation as a college of advanced technology, the College had been providing courses mainly for internal degrees of the University of London in science and pharmacy. Unlike all the other colleges of advanced technology, there was no school of engineering. It was chiefly as a result of Lightfoot's deliberations that the College continued to provide courses such as were traditional, but to develop research and postgraduate courses of an applied nature. Because of this decision, Chelsea College has a higher percentage of postgraduate work than any other college of advanced technology despite great limitations of space. In this way, Lightfoot felt that the College would play a proper part in its new capacity.

As a man, Lightfoot was quiet and retiring in his behaviour. In all that he did he was extremely conscientious with a sharp eye for detail. He came to a decision only after mature thought, but once he had made up his mind he went ahead with determination. He was a man of the highest integrity and because of this his staff knew that he could always be trusted. Likewise, he never interfered with his heads of Departments, leaving it to them, as experts in their own particular fields, to run their departments in their own way. In his unobtrusive way he has left his mark on the College and he will be sadly missed.

Lightfoot's death came tragically soon after that of his wife in December 1961, and our sympathies go out to his only daughter in losing both her parents in so short a time.

C. C. HENTSCHEL

Mr. E. C. Stubbens

ERNEST CHARLES STUBBENS, who died on November 16 at his home in Shelford, was born in Cambridge on May 3, 1899. He began a lifetime devoted to the scientific

instrument industry with an apprenticeship to the Cambridge Instrument Co., which he entered in 1913. After two years in the armed forces in the First World War, Mr. Stubbens spent four years with British Thomson-Houston Ltd. in Rugby but took an early opportunity of returning to his native city when he was appointed chief inspector with Pye Radio Ltd. in 1925.

In August 1934 Mr. Stubbens joined Unicam Instruments, the new enterprise started a few months earlier by his brothers, the late Mr. Sidney Stubbens and Mr. John Stubbens, who is the present head of the model shop at Unicam. Pioneer conditions made it possible—essential even—for “E. C. S.” to show his many talents, and he served his new company in several capacities before finding his true métier when, during the Second World War, he took charge of production at the London Instru-

ment Co., seconded to Unicam for the duration. At the end of hostilities he returned to the main Unicam factory as works manager and began the happy association with old colleagues and new friends that has now come to an end.

He held strongly to the belief that efficiency is closely related to congenial working conditions and set himself to create both, as much by his personal example as by his executive activities. His success contributed largely to the major expansion of Unicam in recent years. A lively personal interest in the welfare of his staff found expression in his work as chairman of the Company's Sports and Social Club, to which he devoted his time and energies in full measure.

Mr. Stubbens leaves a widow to whom his many friends extend their profound sympathy.

NEWS and VIEWS

Soil Mechanics at Manchester: Prof. P. W. Rowe

DR. PETER WALTER ROWE, at present reader in soil mechanics in the University of Manchester, has been granted the status of professor of soil mechanics at that University. Dr. Rowe went with a Merchant Venturer Scholarship from Bristol Grammar School to the University of Bristol, where he graduated with first class honours in civil engineering in 1942. After three years as a junior scientific officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, he joined Sir Robert McAlpine and Son, Ltd. In 1947 he was appointed lecturer in civil engineering at University College, Dundee, where he conducted research on anchored sheet pile bulkheads, for which he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. Dr. Rowe went to Manchester in 1952 as a lecturer in engineering and was promoted to a senior lectureship in 1954. He was awarded the degree of D.Sc. in 1956 and was appointed reader in soil mechanics in 1958. He has organized in Manchester short postgraduate courses in soil mechanics which have attracted senior workers from many parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. He has lectured widely in the United States and at international conferences.

Genetics at Liverpool: Prof. P. M. Sheppard

DR. P. M. SHEPPARD, reader in genetics at the University of Liverpool, has been appointed to the newly established chair of genetics at that University. Dr. Sheppard, who is forty-one years of age, was educated at Marlborough College and at Worcester College, Oxford, where he graduated with honours in zoology in 1948, and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in 1951. From 1951 until 1956 he served as a research officer in the Department of Geology and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Oxford. During 1954–55 he held a Rockefeller fellowship and worked at Columbia University, New York. He was appointed a senior lecturer in genetics at the University of Liverpool in 1956 and a reader in 1959. Dr. Sheppard has served on the Committee of the Genetical Society of Great Britain and has worked extensively in the field of natural selection and heredity. He is especially interested in the genetics of butterflies and moths.

Signals Research and Development Establishment, Christchurch, Hants: Mr. R. J. Lees

MR. R. J. LEES has been appointed director of the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch, Hants, in succession to Mr. R. V. Whelpton. Mr. Lees, who is at present head of the Instruments and Air Photography Division of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, was born in 1917. He joined the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern (now the Royal Radar Establishment), in 1939, where he remained until moving to his present post at the Royal Aircraft Estab-

lishment in 1959. While at Malvern he was largely concerned with work on guided missiles, being superintendent of the guided weapons section in 1951. In 1953 he was appointed superintendent, experimental physics, in 1955 director of scientific research (guided weapons), and in 1956 head of airborne radar at the Royal Radar Establishment.

Ministry of Aviation Science Officers in Industry

In a written answer in the House of Commons on December 10, the Minister of Aviation, Mr. J. Amery, stated that in the past ten years applications to take up posts with industrial firms had been approved from one senior principal scientific officer, one principal scientific officer, four senior scientific officers, three senior experimental officers, two chemists and nine engineers. Mr. Amery emphasized that the Department employed several thousands of scientists, engineers and technical staff of potential value to industry, and that it had been the object of successive Ministers to ensure that, while industry was not denied the services of some very able people, nor they themselves the chance to make a new career, this fruitful exchange should not be allowed to influence the placing of contracts or to lead to favours being sought or given.

Grants for Education Research in Great Britain

In a written answer in the House of Commons on December 11, the Minister of Education, Sir Edward Boyle, listed grants totalling £183,000 for the financial year 1962–63 made or approved under the Educational Services and Research Regulations, 1946. Besides £58,000 over five years to the National Foundation for Educational Research for a study of the effects of streaming in primary schools and £21,000 over three years to the same Foundation, as well as £20,000 for a four-year study of the merits of block- and day-release, these include: £20,000 to the Brunel College of Technology for a five-year study of the learning of intellectually complex material; £13,000 to the Department of Education, Sheffield, for a three-year project on programmed learning; £15,000 to the Educational Foundation for Visual Aids for the audio-visual aids experimental development unit; £10,000 to the Department of Sociology, Manchester, for a four-year study of the effects of home life on school performance; £6,000 to the Department of Education, Birmingham (in association with the Department of English, Leeds), for a three-year project of oral English tests in the Certificate of Secondary Education; £5,000 to the Department of Education, Swansea, for a three-year study of teaching educationally sub-normal children. Grants totalling £46,800 for special education services include £14,500 to the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchange,