

OBITUARIES

Academician D. I. Shcherbakov

ACADEMICIAN DMITRY IVANOVICH SHCHERBAKOV, a distinguished geologist and the editor of *Priroda*, died in Moscow on May 25, 1966. Shcherbakov was born in Novozybkov, Bryansk region, on January 14 (1), 1893. His father was a railway engineer. In 1911 he entered the Metallurgical Faculty of St. Petersburg Polytechnical Institute, where he specialized in petrology under the guidance of Professor F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing. As a result of revolution and civil war he completed his university course in the Taurida University at Simpheropol only in 1922. From 1922 until 1932 Shcherbakov taught in the University and in the Mining Institute of Leningrad, and also participated in field work organized by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and by the Geological Survey. In 1946 he was elected a corresponding member and in 1953 a full member of the Academy of Sciences, and from 1953 to 1963 he occupied the important post of secretary of the Geological-Geographical Section of the Academy. In 1954 he became the editor of *Izvestia Akademii Nauk S.S.S.R. Seria Geologicheskaya* (the Geological Series of the Academy's *Bulletin*), and also of the popular scientific journal *Priroda* ("Nature").

Shcherbakov began his scientific research work while still a student of Loewinson-Lessing, with a petrographic study of certain igneous rocks in the Crimea. In 1914 he took part in a radium expedition organized by V. I. Vernadsky to Fergana in Central Asia. After 1914 he was involved in the survey of economic minerals in Russia, a work which he continued for the greater part of his life. For a time he was associated with A. E. Fersman in the discovery of mercury and antimony ores in Central Asia. He became an authority on the geochemistry and metallogeny of ore deposits, and this work took him to many parts of the Soviet Union—the Caucasus, Urals, Siberia, Pamir and elsewhere. His travels extended beyond the Soviet boundary. He became widely known through his popular articles on his travels and popular exposition of current problems in science. He was also a great organizer and carried out lively information and communication work among fellow geologists. He had an endearing personality and his death was a great shock to his numerous friends and colleagues.

S. I. TOMKEIEFF

Dr. E. F. Warburg

DR. E. F. WARBURG, who died on June 9, 1966, at the age of fifty-eight, was best known as one of the authors of the invaluable "Clapham, Tutin and Warburg", the standard British Flora since 1952. He was, however, much more than that: he had wide botanical interests and an exceptionally clear and penetrating mind. His students at London and Oxford will long remember him as a teacher who inspired a special loyalty and affection.

Edmund Fredric Warburg came of a family of German-Jewish origin which has produced many distinguished men: he was distantly related to Otto Warburg, the plant taxonomist, and to the Otto Warburg who invented the indispensable Warburg apparatus. His father was the late Sir Oscar Warburg, a business man and former chairman of the London County Council who was also a keen amateur botanist and horticulturist.

Warburg was educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge, which he entered with a major scholarship in mathematics. After he obtained first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos he worked on the cytotaxonomy of the Geraniaceae under the supervision of Miss E. R. Saunders. For this work he

was awarded a Ph.D. and in 1933 a research fellowship of his college.

In 1938 he became an assistant lecturer at Bedford College, London, and in 1941 he joined the photographic interpretation branch of the R.A.F. at Medmenham, in which he remained until he returned to Bedford College at the end of the Second World War. In 1948 Professor T. G. B. Osborn invited him to become curator of the Druce Herbarium and University demonstrator at Oxford. Here, besides working on the taxonomy of flowering plants (especially *Sorbus* in which he was particularly interested) and writing part of the *Flora of the British Isles* (1952; second edition, 1962), he became increasingly interested in British mosses. He supervised a number of research students and also took an active part in undergraduate teaching. In 1964 he became reader in plant taxonomy and was elected a Fellow of New College.

Warburg was president of the Botanical Society of the British Isles from 1965 until he died and editor of its journal *Watsonia* from 1949 until 1960. He was president of the British Bryological Society in 1962 and 1963. He took much interest in the conservation of the British flora and was a founder member of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust.

Warburg was a botanist in whom the elusive "taxonomic sense" was very highly developed and he had a keen eye: his ability to find minute and obscure mosses was astonishing. He was unusual not only in being equally expert on higher plants and mosses, but also in having a wide knowledge of garden plants. This he acquired mainly from his father, who at his home, Boidier, Headley, Surrey, had formed a remarkable collection of oaks, *Cistus*, *Berberis* and other trees and shrubs. In later years in his own garden near Oxford, Warburg made an extensive collection of *Crocus*.

All Warburg's publications were meticulously prepared and showed his characteristic qualities of clarity and good sense. It is only to be regretted that he did not write more, and that, apart from his contribution to the *Flora of the British Isles*, his published work was not of an importance commensurate with his great ability. While still an undergraduate he wrote in collaboration with his father a very useful paper on *Cistus* in cultivation. He took endless trouble in editing the scholarly third edition of the *Census Catalogue of British Mosses* (1963). In recent years he had been working in association with Mr. A. C. Crundwell on a projected new British moss flora.

He will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends to whom he was always known as "Heff" (Heffalump), a nickname acquired at one of the Gilbert-Carters's famous Sunday tea parties at the Cambridge Botanic Garden.

In 1948 he married Primrose Barrett of Melton, Suffolk, and they had two sons and a daughter.

P. W. RICHARDS

"The rise of ecology to a position of recognized importance had led to a demand not only for clear descriptions of species but for information of a kind not essential to identification, though of value to everyone interested in plants as living organisms. There has also been among botanists a change of outlook so marked as to affect very seriously the usefulness of the existing books. When Babington and Hooker wrote their floras 'systematic botany' was almost or (to Babington) quite synonymous with 'botany' and consequently these works are not primarily intended to permit the correct identification of plants but to teach the principles of classification and the technical characters of families and genera. Taxonomy is now only one branch, though an important and indeed a fundamental branch of botany, and many people who are not primarily taxonomists have need to identify plants correctly."

From the preface to the first edition of the FLORA OF THE BRITISH ISLES, by A. R. Clapham, T. G. Tutin and E. F. Warburg.