

the United States, and that most of this work is directed towards extending the role of computers. This annual review is the first of the series to appear, and the chapter authors have interpreted their instructions in different ways. In his chapter on evaluation of indexing systems, Bourne has attempted to cover all the work in this field since 1952, and the result is a paper of little merit. In an excellent chapter on man-machine communications, Davis only refers to papers written before 1965 to illustrate particular topics, while Menzel, in writing about information needs and users, makes no reference to earlier papers.

With further excellent chapters by Baxendale on content analysis; by Climenson on file organization; by Simmons on automated language processing; by Black and Foley on library automation; and by Sherrod on national information issues and trends, this volume should be of real value to most serious workers in the field.

C. W. CLEVERDON

## PLEASURES OF THE NEW FOREST

### The New Forest

A Symposium. Contributed by Juanita Casey and nine other authors. Pp. x + 201 + 24 plates. (London: Phoenix House, 1966.) Revised edition. 42s. net.

THIS admirable book is, in effect, a collection of eleven essays covering some of the most endearing aspects of what is, for far too many of us, a pleasant interlude on the journey from London to the South. But for those who are prepared to linger, look and read, the New Forest has great treasures to offer, many of which are revealed here in a way that will appeal both to the student and the casual visitor. Needless to say, the plants and animals receive their rightful treatment (it is particularly good to find a whole chapter devoted to the forest pony). But we are also given glimpses of the historical background and the position of the commoners within it, the gypsies, perambulations and Beaulieu Abbey. Considering its price, the standard of production is disappointing. Several of the photographs are poor (for example, those facing page twenty-three) and indifferently reproduced. There is no index—an infuriating omission for those wishing to study the Forest seriously.

W. H. DOWDESWELL

## OBITUARIES

### Professor R. C. Punnett

REGINALD CRUNDALL PUNNETT, late Arthur Balfour professor of genetics in the University of Cambridge, died on January 3 at the age of 92. He was born in Tonbridge and graduated from Gonville and Caius College (M.A., 1902). From 1899 until 1902 he was a lecturer at the University of St. Andrews, and between 1902 and 1910 he was university demonstrator in comparative anatomy and animal morphology at Cambridge. In 1910 he became professor of biology and from 1912 until his retirement in 1940 he was professor of genetics.

With Punnett died the last of a brilliant group of investigators who at the beginning of this century took an active part in the rebirth of Mendelian genetics, and, with great enthusiasm and penetration, helped the infant science to take its first important strides. By work on invertebrates, especially nemertans, Punnett had earlier shown himself to be a distinguished comparative morphologist, and at that time he had become interested in problems of sex determination and the sex ratio.

At the beginning of 1904 Punnett joined William Bateson in an association that became a most successful partnership. Investigations of discontinuous variation had already guided Bateson's mind in the direction fore-

shadowed by Mendel's work, and on the rediscovery of this work Bateson set out to gather a team of co-workers of which Punnett became the mainstay. Sturtevant's later remark about the *Drosophila* group at Columbia University that "it was often not only impossible to say, but was felt to be unimportant, who first had an idea" also applied to Bateson's group. It was an ideal solidarity. Intensive work with a variety of plants and animals soon gave much insight into the nature of the hereditary transmission of traits, and served to explain the causes of aberrant segregation ratios. This work also provided Punnett with effective ammunition against arguments raised by the biometrical school. The origin of new and unexpected phenotypes, in first and second hybrid generations, was explained by the interaction of independent factors (genes). A momentous experimental discovery was the finding of partial "coupling", that is linkage, which soon became a crucial tool for the establishment of the chromosomal theory of the gene. By investigating quantitative traits Punnett recognized the important role of multiple genes. Of great practical interest was his "invention" of auto-sexing—the synthetic production of breeds in which the sex of newly hatched chicks could be told from their plumage.

Punnett ranged widely in the choice of problems and of the material he used. He combined, happily, the curiosity of the naturalist and the precision of the morphologist. The clarity of his analytical mind and his great fund of information and critical judgment made him an excellent expositor of his science. His *Mendelism* of 1905 ran through seven editions and was translated into seven foreign languages; his *Heredity in Poultry* of 1923, though addressed to a more restricted audience, was equally lucid. The *Journal of Genetics*, founded by Bateson and Punnett in 1910, which was skilfully edited by Punnett until 1948, was of immense value to all geneticists. In 1912 Punnett was elected a fellow of the Royal Society; he received the Darwin Medal in 1922, and in 1948 he was made an honorary member of the Genetical Society. He was a brilliant, a good and a kind man who faced the exigencies of life with courage and equanimity.

WALTER LANDAUER

### Professor Joseph le Fleming Coy Burrow

PROFESSOR LE FLEMING BURROW, who died on January 20, aged 78, was born at Bowness, Westmorland, in 1888. He graduated in medicine in 1910 from the University of Edinburgh, where he was president of the Royal Medical Society, a much coveted student honour. After holding several house appointments at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, he moved to Leeds to become medical registrar and tutor to the professor of medicine, Dr. Wardrop Griffith. During the First World War he served in the R.A.M.C. as physician to the Second Northern General Hospital at Beckett's Park, and during the Second World War as consultant physician to the E.M.S. Hospital at Seacroft. He was appointed assistant physician to the General Infirmary at Leeds in 1919, full physician in 1929, and became professor of clinical medicine in the University of Leeds in 1937, an appointment he held until his retirement in 1948. He continued to practise as regional adviser to the then Ministry of Pensions and as consultant to the Leeds Regional Hospital Board until shortly before his death. At the age of 67 he had the courage to leave the United Kingdom for four years, and acted as medical superintendent and director of the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital at Addis Ababa.

Professor Burrow was an able clinician whose services were much in demand in the north of England. His handsome figure, elegance of manner and gift for the apt illustration made him a popular teacher. The demands of practice left him little time for research, but he gave loyal and devoted service to the medical school of his adoption.

R. E. TUNBRIDGE