

ness, which was at that time devastating the population on the northern shore of Lake Victoria. This work, published mainly in the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society, involved cytological studies of extreme delicacy and her beautifully illustrated papers are undoubtedly classics. Her work on this subject has never been superseded nor indeed equalled, and the accuracy of some of her conclusions (for example, the role of the stumpy blood-stream trypomastigote in infecting the vector, *Glossina* spp.) is only now being fully appreciated.

After this period Dr Robertson returned to the Lister Institute in 1915 as protozoologist, a post which she occupied for the remainder of her working life, which continued until she was at least 78. During the First World War she showed her versatility by making valuable studies, eminently practical at that time, of the anaerobic bacteria causing gas gangrene, and she became secretary of the Medical Research Council's first Anaerobes Committee and a contributor to the Council's System of Bacteriology. Later, she returned to her first scientific loves, the protozoa, continuing her elegant cytological studies on the free living flagellate *Bodo* and on the finer details of nuclear structure and division in *Trypanosoma*. Miss Robertson's practical nature reasserted itself and she began a long series of pioneering studies of the host's immune response to the parasite *Trichomonas foetus*, an economically important cause of bovine abortion. This work was summarized in her contribution to the book *Immunity to Protozoa*, published in 1963 when Miss Robertson was 80. She celebrated her 80th birthday by delivering the sixth Marjory Stephenson Memorial Lecture to the Society for

General Microbiology, in which she discussed the cytology, life cycles and what she referred to as "the highly experimental approach . . . to sex" of her beloved protozoa. In this wide ranging review she showed a wholly typical grasp of modern techniques by referring to electron-microscope observations as well as to her own pioneering researches and to the work of many others, spanning the intervening half-century. Her scientific achievements were recognized by her election to an FRS in 1947.

Everyone who met Dr Robertson was impressed by her kindness, her willingness to impart knowledge, her enthusiasm for her subject and her forthright personality. She belonged to a generation of female scientific explorers which was probably unique. Not only will she be sadly missed by her many friends and her wide circle of scientific acquaintances, but science as a whole will be the poorer for her death. Happily, her great contributions to knowledge remain in the scientific literature and in the work of those whom she advised and inspired.

Reports and Publications

not included in the Monthly Books Supplement

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Tate and Lyle Limited, Group Research and Development—Annual Report for 1972. Pp. 65. (Reading, Berks: Tate and Lyle Limited, Group Research and Development, 1973.) [105]
University of Oxford, Graduate Studies: Students under Boards of Faculties and Committees as on the first day of Trinity Term 1973. Pp. 227–335. (Oxford: The University, 1973.) 40p. [105]
Department of the Environment, Water Pollution Research Technical Paper No. 13: Mathematical and Hydraulic Modelling of Estuarine Pollution. (Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Water Pollution Research Laboratory, 18th and 19th April, 1972.) Pp. vi+228. (London: HMSO, 1973.) £3.60 net. [105]
Report by the Hydrographer of the Navy 1972. Pp. 38. (NP 130.) (Taunton: Hydrographic Department of the Ministry of Defence, 1973.) [105]
Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association,

Annual Report for 1972. Pp. iv+173. (Kettering, Northants: Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association, 1973.) [155]
BP Statistical Review of the World Oil Industry 1972. Pp. 24. (London: The British Petroleum Company, Ltd., 1973.) [155]
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Genetic Studies in Mental Subnormality. By B. C. Clare Davison, Peter N. Swift, Philip F. Benson and John D. Studdy. (*British Journal of Psychiatry*, Special Publication No. 8.) Pp. 82. (Ashford, Kent: Headley Brothers, Ltd., 1973. Published by authority of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.) £2; \$5.35. [155]
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Proceedings of the 12th NIAB Crop Conference, 13/15 December 1972: UK Cereal Production after entering the Common Market. Pp. 83. £1. List of Recommended Varieties 1973. Pp. 8. (Cambridge: National Institute of Agricultural Botany, 1973.) [165]
Science Research Council, Daresbury Nuclear Physics Laboratory—Annual Report 1972. Pp. 141. (Daresbury, Nr. Warrington: Daresbury Nuclear Physics Laboratory, 1973.) [165]
Countryside Commission for England and Wales, Countryside Recreation Staff—a Paper for Discussion. Pp. 13. (London: Countryside Commission, 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, NW1, 1973.) *Gratis*. [165]

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CERN—European Organisation for Nuclear Research. CERN—73-4: High Accuracy, Two-Dimensional Read-Out in Multiwire Proportional Chambers. By G. Charpak and F. Sauli. Pp. iii+10. (Geneva: CERN, 1973.) [23]
World Health Organization, Drug Therapy of Cancer. By G. Brule, S. J. Eckhardt, T. C. Hall and A. Winkler. Pp. 163. 20 Sw. francs; £2; \$5. Technical Report Series No. 507; Psychogeriatrics—Report of a WHO Scientific Group. Pp. 48. 4 Sw. francs; 40p; \$1. (Geneva: WHO; London: HMSO, 1972 and 1973.) [23]
US Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, NBS Special Foreign Currency Program in Yugoslavia, 1971–72. By H. Steffen Peiser, Samuel F. Chappell, Emanuel Horowitz, Harvey Yakowitz and Doris Blurbond. (NBS Technical Note No. 753.) Pp. vi+65. (Washington, DC: US Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, 1973. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) 90 cents. [23]

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