

the thanks of English and American students, who owe him besides a debt for his share in the foundation of the *Annals of Botany*; from the outset he served as one of the editors of this successful and important journal.

It was, however, the work accomplished by him as a teacher for a generation at Edinburgh that led Balfour to be regarded, with justice, as one of the foremost of British botanists. His personal charm enabled him to arrest the attention of his students; the lucidity of his discourse ensured the maintenance of that attention. But the reality of his success depended neither upon these natural accidents nor upon the variety and the precision of the knowledge which informed his teaching. It is to be accounted for rather by the wide sympathy which enabled him, as one who was at once an erudite natural historian and an accomplished experimental biologist, to combine all that was valuable in the older training to which he had been subjected in this country and in the newer methods which he had mastered abroad. To a still greater degree, perhaps, he owed his success to that sane outlook which enabled him to induce those he taught to regard botanical investigation and research, in the field, the cabinet, and the laboratory alike, as means to an end rather than as ends in themselves.

Balfour's work as Regius Keeper and as King's Botanist was actuated by the same philosophy. His study of the natural history of the plants under his care, while complying with the highest standard set in ecological and in systematic work, was undertaken with the object of mastering their cultural requirements. The success of his results in the technical field was largely due to the thoroughness of his scientific study.

The long-sustained and critical investigation of the members of the two great genera, *Primula* and *Rhododendron*, to which of late years Balfour devoted much of his scanty leisure, has given his name a permanent place in the annals of systematic study. The complexity of the problems he has had to face might almost justify a suspicion that in Balfour's case the difficulty of a subject was an added incentive to its study. However this may be, the fact remains that these arduous labours, though incidentally of extreme taxonomic value, have had as their primary purpose the rendering of assistance to horticulture in dealing with the accessions of new plant-forms during the past two decades from south-western China and the north-eastern Himalaya. It is because the object of his studies was the provision of technical help to the gardener, and not in spite of that fact, that the results attained are of such benefit to students of plant-distribution and plant-association.

Among the extra-official duties undertaken by Balfour were included willing services rendered to the Edinburgh Botanical Society, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Royal Horticultural Society. Elected to the Linnean Society in 1875, he served on the Council during 1884-85; elected to the Royal Society in 1884, he served on the Council during 1892-94. In 1894 he was president of the biology section of the British Association at the Oxford meeting, and in 1901 was president of the botany section at the Glasgow meeting. An invitation to serve as president of the Linnean Society, in succession to Prof. Poulton, in 1916 was declined, and the intimation that his health was such

as to preclude acceptance was one of the earliest to cause his friends disquietude.

In 1920 Balfour was created a K.B.E. in recognition of the great public services rendered by him during the war, his devotion to which had undermined his constitution. Among other honours bestowed on Balfour were the Victoria Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society, received in 1897, and the Linnean Medal—the highest honour the Linnean Society could offer—received in 1919. The wish then expressed by the latter society that Balfour "might long be spared to continue the work that has served its members as an example and an encouragement" has unfortunately not been fulfilled. By his death, which took place at Court Hill, Haslemere, on November 30 last, botanical science has lost a brilliant votary; his friends have lost one whose soundness of judgment was only equalled by his ready kindness and unflinching courtesy.

SIR NORMAN MOORE, Bt., M.D.

THE medical profession is poorer by the death of Sir Norman Moore on November 30. Born in Manchester seventy-five years ago, he rose without influence and solely by his own exertions to be president of the Royal College of Physicians. He also earned a well-deserved reputation as an historian of British medicine. After a preliminary education at Owens College, he matriculated in the University of Cambridge from St. Catherine's College, whence in due course he graduated in arts and medicine, being afterwards elected an honorary fellow. He entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1879 and remained in close association with it during the whole of the rest of his life. He served first as lecturer on comparative anatomy, later as demonstrator of morbid anatomy, and in due season as lecturer on medicine in the medical school, while in the hospital he filled in succession all the offices from house physician to consulting physician. He also acted for many years as dean of the school and warden of the college, living within the precincts of the hospital, and serving so zealously that for many years the annual entry of students exceeded that of any of the other hospitals in London.

During his years of residence in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Moore laid the foundations of his renown as an historian of medicine. He wrote as many as 454 articles, dealing chiefly with the lives of medical men, for the "Dictionary of National Biography." He was instrumental in obtaining for the Royal College of Physicians the endowment of the FitzPatrick lectures, and himself gave two courses of the lectures, one on "John Mirfield and Medical Study in London during the Middle Ages," the other on "The History of the Study of Clinical Medicine in the British Isles." His knowledge of the subject and his work in connexion with it made him a worthy successor to Sir William Osler as president of the history section at the Royal Society of Medicine. More than thirty years of such time as he could spare from his other duties were devoted to the preparation of a history of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The work was delayed by the war, but it appeared in two well-illustrated quarto volumes in 1918, and immediately became a classic.

The age and traditions of the Royal College of

Physicians appealed to Moore in the same way as did those of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He filled all the usual posts with unflinching punctuality, was Harveian Librarian, and served in the office of president from 1918 to 1921. He was also the representative of the College at the General Medical Council. He had an intimate knowledge of the needs of medical education, and he took a leading part in that recasting of the medical curriculum which began in 1886 and is still in progress.

Moore's love of books and his knowledge of their

contents were utilised by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, where he filled the post of honorary librarian for many years. When the society was merged in the present Royal Society of Medicine, Moore, in conjunction with Mr. Stephen Paget, wrote the chronicles of the society from 1805 to 1905, with some account of the presidents.

In 1919 Moore was created a baronet. He was twice married, and is succeeded by his surviving son, Alan Hilary.

Current Topics and Events.

WHILE the rest of the world has been getting used to filling up the forms required by Customs authorities, and to awaiting with patience the delays involved in the examination by Customs laboratories of imported products that may prove to be dutiable, Great Britain has forgotten the very existence of such things, and their reintroduction, as a consequence of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, is regarded as little less than a revolutionary innovation by importers and their spokesmen in the House of Commons. It is clear from the debate which took place on Sir John Simon's amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the King's Speech, regretting the absence of any reference to the repeal of this Act, that opposition to the Act arises largely from its administration. Almost every speaker admitted the necessity of legislation to prevent the recurrence of the famine in magnetos, drugs, optical glass, dyes, and other essential commodities, which occurred in this country on the outbreak of war, but those who wished the Act repealed failed to mention a scheme by which this end could be achieved, probably because any attempt to do so would split up the apparently solid phalanx of opposition. To those who have the national welfare in mind, the troubles of Sir John Simon's trader, who had a consignment of potassium permanganate held up for two months by the Customs, will make slight appeal, and they would cheerfully see a few traders, who have no direct interest in industry and merely buy and sell, sacrificed, if by that means they could ensure the establishment in this country of highly technical industries in which skilled craftsmen and technical experts could be employed and the safety of the country in war and in peace assured. The difficulties which the operation of the Act places in the way of the importation of chemicals and instruments required by research workers, naturally evoke more sympathy than those of traders; and it is satisfactory that the Government was able to promise a joint inquiry by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Board of Trade into the progress actually made in the industries with which the Act is concerned. In the course of that inquiry these difficulties will no doubt be fully explored and means of dealing with them evolved.

THE needs of men of science in Russia have been referred to on several occasions in our columns, and we have suggested that the different groups of scientific and technical societies should concern

themselves with groups of workers in their own departments. This has, we believe, been done in connexion with the Committee for the Relief of Russian Intellectuals, the president of which is Sir Paul Vinogradoff. There is an Engineers' Section Sub-Committee, with Sir Robert Hadfield as president, and this sub-committee has just made an appeal on behalf of Russian engineers and their families, who, not alone in the famine areas but throughout Russia, are undergoing terrible suffering and distress. If British engineers will help, many lives can be saved and the human energy and knowledge necessary for the reconstruction of Russia can be retained. Assistance is required for the provision of food and clothing. Food parcels may be sent to particular individuals, or names and addresses can be supplied to donors who prefer to send parcels direct. Remittances should be sent to the honorary treasurer, Mr. R. C. Griffith, 8 Victoria Avenue, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2, who will be glad to give any particulars desired.

A SCIENTIFIC novelties exhibition will be held at King's College, Strand, W.C. (by kind permission of the College delegacy), from December 28 to January 10, in support of the Hospitals of London Combined Appeal. Members of the scientific staffs of the various colleges and schools of the University of London, as well as of university institutions having recognised teachers, are assisting with exhibits or demonstrations, and short lectures with experimental or lantern illustrations will be given by Profs. Bairstow, Sir William Bragg, Cheshire, Winifred Cullis, Flinders Petrie, Garwood, Gordon, Macgregor-Morris, Watts, Wilson, and many others. The exhibition will not be merely a display of objects of interest, but of the character of a *conversazione*, in which experiments and demonstrations will be going on continuously. It will thus be attractive to both old and young, and we hope it will bring a substantial sum into the fund for which it is being organised.

THE issue of *La Nature* for November 18 contains a summary of the recent International Congress on Combustible Liquids held in Paris under the auspices of the French Society of Chemical Industry. Prior to the opening of the congress, an exhibition was organised in which practically every phase of the petroleum and allied industries received attention. The several stages in the production and refining of crude oil were amply illustrated by an excellent