

## Obituary.

PROF. JAMES SULLY.

THE death of Prof. James Sully, which took place in London on November 2, at eighty-one years of age, removes from among us one of the few survivors of the philosophical school for whom psychology was a mental science distinct from and yet analogous to natural science. His "Teachers' Handbook of Psychology" was for many years the standard text-book of the subject, and his treatise, "The Human Mind" the generally recognised authority on the science. Since he retired in 1903 from the Grote professorship of mind and logic at University College, London, which he had held for ten years, he has lived in retirement. To most of the present generation he is known by the honour accorded to his name in the membership lists of learned societies.

Sully's works on psychology show him still in the main under the influence of the Associationists, Mill and Bain, notwithstanding that he imparted to his subject a wide range of interest. He had no part in the revolution which has overtaken the teaching of psychology. He had studied before the days of laboratory appliances and apparatus for making practical experiments and devising mental tests. Also he was before the rise of psycho-analysis and took no part for or against the medical theories. His particular bent was towards the educational aspect of his subject and his great interest was child-study.

James Sully was born at Bridgwater on March 3, 1842. His parents were Baptists, and he was educated with the intention of preparing himself, should he receive the call, for the Baptist ministry. He went to Taunton Independent College, and afterwards to Regent's Park Baptist College, where he took the London M.A. degree with a gold medal. He then went to Germany, first to Göttingen, and afterwards to Berlin to attend the lectures of Hermann Lotze. He took a post of classical tutor in a Baptist College, but shortly afterwards resigned it and at the same time definitely abandoned the intention of taking a pastorate. Instead he took up journalism. He soon began to make his mark as an author. His book "Pessimism," 1877, gained general recognition as a work of wide and original philosophical interest. Most of his books, however, were technical treatises or handbooks for students. An "Essay on Laughter," 1902, "Italian Travel Sketches," 1912, and quite recently a volume of "Reminiscences" were his last works.

In the time of his full activity Sully lived at Hampstead, the centre of a literary circle which included many well-known names. He was an active member of Leslie Stephen's famous society for Sunday tramps. Among his close personal friends were Henry Sidgwick, Herbert Spencer, G. H. Lewes, Shadworth Hodgson, Cotter Morison, William James and Henry James, and George Meredith.

DR. E. K. MUSPRATT.

THE death, on September 1, of Dr. Edmund Knowles Muspratt, honorary president of the United Alkali Company Ltd., and a former Pro-Chancellor of the

University of Liverpool, is deeply regretted by all who know his public work and intellectual influence.

Born in 1833, the youngest son of James Muspratt, the founder of the great alkali industry of Lancashire, Dr. Muspratt studied chemistry in early life under Liebig, becoming one of his intimate personal friends and following him when he moved from Giessen to Munich. About the year 1856 he entered his father's business, and thus was associated for the rest of his life with the alkali and acid industry of Lancashire, afterwards becoming a director and, later, chairman of the United Alkali Co.

Dr. Muspratt was one of the great citizens of Liverpool who played a leading part in the establishment, first of the University College, and later of the University of Liverpool. A man of wide culture and outlook and a sincere believer in learning and research, he did everything in his power to further the cause of higher education in Liverpool. Together with his friend, the late Sir John Brunner, he was instrumental in obtaining a charter for the new University. For many years he acted as a member of the Council, and by his influential support, wise and broad-minded advice, and generous benefactions, proved himself to be one of the greatest friends the University possessed. Amongst his benefactions may be mentioned the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, with which his name was associated by the University.

Dr. Muspratt was widely interested in science, literature, music, the drama, politics, and public life. At Seaforth Hall, near Liverpool, his father's home (and also his own to the close of his life), he met many of the most interesting personalities of the time, including Charles Dickens, Samuel Lover, Sheridan Knowles the dramatist (who acted as his godfather), Macready, Douglas Jerrold, Mark Lemon, Miss Charlotte and Miss Susan Cushman. This tradition of culture, friendship, and hospitality was carried on by Dr. Muspratt, so that Seaforth Hall was always the home of wit, learning, and good fellowship.

Dr. Muspratt travelled a great deal in Europe (and in America). In 1917 he published a very interesting and delightful book entitled "My Life and Work."

In the England of fifty years ago there did not exist the great modern "city" Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield. Their creation in the face of many obstacles and difficulties has been due to the far-sighted vision and true liberalism of a comparatively small number of men. In this select company of great scholars and great English citizens, the name of Edmund Knowles Muspratt holds an honoured and distinguished place.

F. G. D.

DR. P. W. LATHAM.

DR. P. W. LATHAM, for twenty years Downing professor of medicine at Cambridge, who died on October 29 at Clifton, Bristol, was a notable teacher and practitioner of medicine, working ceaselessly into advanced life for the progress of his science. He died a week after the completion of his ninety-first year. The Downing professorship, entered upon in 1874, was