

The last, and not the least, public service performed by Tizard was to report and prepare plans to assist the Admiralty Committee, under the chairmanship of Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, in 1912, to arrive at a conclusion relative to the tactics employed by Nelson at Trafalgar. The investigation and co-ordination of all records from ships' logs and other sources enabled Tizard to prepare a track chart and three plans, which the Committee in its report states to be "the first and only plans representing any phase of the Battle of Trafalgar which have been exactly drawn to scale, and in which the positions assigned to particular ships in the British Fleet have been settled in accordance with the evidence contained in the logs and journals."

A. M. F.

SIR MALCOLM MORRIS, K.C.V.O.

THE sudden death on February 19 of Sir Malcolm Morris, at the age of seventy-four, removes one who for half a century has been identified with the progress of medical science in its widest aspects. His student days were passed at St. Mary's Hospital, and after qualifying and holding a house surgeoncy there, he entered upon general practice in Yorkshire for a brief period. He then proceeded to Berlin and Vienna in order to continue his medical studies, and became interested in dermatology.

After his return to Great Britain, Sir Malcolm Morris was soon appointed clinical assistant to the Blackfriars Skin Hospital, and, later, lecturer on dermatology and surgeon in charge of the skin department, St. Mary's Hospital, where he worked for twenty years. Afterwards, he was for some years dermatologist to the London School of Clinical Medicine, Greenwich. He was one of the first in Great Britain to employ the Finsen light in the treatment of skin affections, and was one of the promoters of the Radium Institute and served on its committee.

Sir Malcolm Morris naturally had his attention directed to those two scourges of mankind, tuberculosis and syphilis. He was one of the first to recognise the importance of Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus and, later, of tuberculin, and was Secretary-General of the British Congress of Tuberculosis held in London in 1901 when Koch made his noteworthy pronouncement on the duality of human and bovine tuberculosis. He was also a member of the International Council on Leprosy. As regards syphilis, he recognised the public apathy and conspiracy of silence respecting this disease, and became a strenuous advocate for the appointment of a Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. He saw his proposal realised in 1913 and served as one of the Commissioners, as well as becoming a vice-president of the National Society for Combating Venereal Diseases, established in 1914.

Other public health questions also interested Sir Malcolm Morris. He was elected president of the Institute of Hygiene in 1917, was a fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and long served on the Council of the Cremation Society of Great Britain. He was created K.C.V.O. in 1908. His published work included a manual of "Diseases of the Skin," which passed through several editions, and "The Story of English Public Health," and he was for a time editor of the *Practitioner* and a director of Cassells, Ltd. He

was a man of unbounded energy, a facile speaker, and with keen business acumen, an excellent member of committees.

R. T. HEWLETT.

REV. C. J. BALL.

THE death occurred recently of the Rev. Charles James Ball, Rector of Bletchington, Oxford, at the age of seventy-three years. Although his work was known only to a comparatively limited circle, his knowledge of Biblical Hebrew and of the text of the Old Testament was unsurpassed, and he was one of the recognised authorities in Assyriology. His earlier years were spent as classical and Hebrew master at Merchant Taylors School, and after he had been presented to the living of Bletchington in 1899, he was for a time reader of Assyriology in the University of Oxford.

Of Mr. Ball's many contributions to Biblical and Assyriological studies, the most noteworthy was a series entitled "The New Accadian," which appeared in the proceedings of the Society of Biblical Assyriology, the Council of which he joined in 1878. He here endeavoured to show that the Chinese language and writing were derived from the Proto-Babylonian or Sumerian. This series was afterwards expanded into book form and published under the title "Sumerian and Chinese," issued in 1913. Its reception was of a mixed character, partly owing to the fact that Ball's intimate knowledge of the two languages was not equally shared by any other scholar: partly to the fact that his theories were in advance of his time. They are, in fact, still *sub judice*. Equally original was his attempt to trace Semitic trilateral roots to a Sumerian origin, published in the form of contributions to the "Hilprecht Anniversary Volume" and the Proceedings of the British Academy. Although his theory is still not finally accepted, the work of other scholars on lines laid down by Mr. Ball tends to confirm it. In addition he wrote extensively on matters connected with the Old Testament, his work of most lasting value to scholars being "The Hebrew Text of Genesis with Critical Notes" and "The Book of Job, a Revised Text and Version."

THE death is announced of Mrs. Robert Gray, of Edinburgh, who had for many years collected fossils from the Ordovician and Silurian rocks of Girvan, Ayrshire, with great assiduity and skill, and had continued her field labours up to last summer. She was in her ninety-third year. Her collection of more than 40,000 specimens was recently purchased by the Trustees of the British Museum, and contains material described by T. Davidson, Alleyne Nicholson, R. Etheridge fil., Lapworth, Cowper Reed, Bather, W. K. Spencer, and other specialists. In 1903 Mrs. Gray was awarded the Murchison fund of the Geological Society of London.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. L. Péringuey, Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town, on February 20.

Prof. H. A. Thomson, professor of surgery in the University of Edinburgh, on March 5, aged fifty-nine.