

Obituary.

DR. ALEX HILL.

DR. ALEX HILL, whose death was recently recorded in *NATURE*, was born at Loughton, Essex, and educated at University College School and at Downing College, Cambridge; in 1880 he was elected a fellow of the College, from 1888 to 1907 he was Master of Downing, and from 1897 to 1899 Vice-Chancellor of the University. He studied medicine and surgery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; in 1884-85 he was Hunterian professor of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The greater part of Dr. Hill's life was spent in the advancement of learning; his services, not being confined to the routine of academic life, were given widely to educational causes. He assisted in the formation of the National Home Reading Union, of which he was the chairman from 1888 to 1908. He served as president of the Teachers' Guild of Great Britain, and was a member of various educational committees, including the Welsh Colleges Committee, 1907-8, and the Advisory Committee of the Treasury on Universities, 1901-6.

A versatile and an attractive writer, Dr. Hill was the author of several books and papers on physiology and on other subjects connected with the profession for which he had been trained. His geniality, personal charm, and eloquence attracted crowded audiences in various parts of the country, when as a Gilchrist Lecturer he dealt with physiological and psychological subjects such as "Man under the Microscope" and "Dual Personality." His literary gifts were evident in his series of lectures on Browning and in his interpretation of the poet in his "Notes on Browning."

Dr. Hill was zealous in his advocacy of university education, and having formed the conception of university institutions as centres of educational influence in areas not already served by universities, he strove to put his ideals into practice. With this aim in view he accepted an urgent appeal to become the Principal of University College, Southampton, a position which he took up in January 1913. His task was not an easy one, but he entered on it with characteristic enthusiasm; his winsome personality had an immediate effect on all branches of the College activities, and he was able to secure support for the new College buildings which had been planned for the present site at Highfield. The outbreak of the War so soon after he had entered upon his duties was a serious blow to the growing College; a large number of the staff and students joined the forces, and the new buildings were occupied as a war hospital. Dr. Hill's own residence at Highfield Hall, which he had taken as a centre for the social activities of the College, he gave up to the Red Cross Society, and lived in a house near it in order to be able to assist the work of the hospital. Always a hard worker, his energy during the War was boundless, for in addition to carrying on his duties as Principal of the College, he took on himself the work of the Universities Bureau when his assistant secretary joined the forces. His recreation was in the garden

attached to Highfield Hall, and even at this strenuous period of his life he rose early each morning to work in the garden, where he grew vegetables and flowers for the wounded soldiers in the hospital.

The work with which Dr. Hill especially identified himself since 1912 was that of secretary of the Universities Bureau of the British Empire. The Bureau owes its inception to Dr. Hill, who, when he resigned his position as Principal of the University College, Southampton, told the writer that there were two claims both very dear to him, those of the College and the Bureau; but whilst he felt that others could carry on the work of the College, the Bureau was his own child, and his one aim in life was to nurse it and to bring it to maturity.

A man of broad sympathies and wide vision, Dr. Hill endeared himself to those who knew him. His tour with his family, so well described in his book "Round the British Empire," strengthened his vision and he felt more intensely that the work which he was undertaking was a means of cementing more firmly the bonds of Empire. Since 1920, although his work was mainly in London, his home was in Southampton, and his connexion with the College maintained by his election as a vice-president. He died at 'Granta,' Upper Bassett, Southampton, on Feb. 27, and leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter. J. EUSTICE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

M. J. Boussinesq, member of the Section of Mechanics of the Paris Academy of Sciences and author of a mathematical work on the theory of light, on Feb. 19, aged eighty-six years.

Sir Anthony Bowlby, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., a past president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on April 7, aged seventy-three years.

Dr. Jonathan Dwight, president in 1923-26 of the American Ornithological Union, on Feb. 22, aged seventy years.

Dr. H. B. Gray, formerly warden of Bradfield College, and president in 1909 of Section L (Educational Science) of the British Association, on April 5, aged seventy-seven years.

Sir George Knibbs, C.M.G., Commonwealth statistician from 1906 until 1921, and president in 1923-24 of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, aged seventy years.

Dr. Thomas B. Osborne, since 1886 research chemist in the Connecticut Experiment Station, who was an honorary fellow of the Chemical Society of London, and was distinguished for his work on the chemistry of the vegetable proteins and related subjects, on Jan. 29, aged sixty-nine years.

Sir Henry Rew, K.C.B., sometime Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and a past president of the Royal Statistical Society and of Section M (Agriculture) of the British Association, on April 7, aged seventy years.

Dr. Thomas Scott, associated for many years with the Scottish Fishery Board Laboratory and known for his work on the smaller marine crustacea, especially copepoda, in recognition of which the University of St. Andrews conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D., on Feb. 25, aged eighty-eight years.