

Chagos and Mascarene groups shows differences that can partly be explained by the differences in the reefs themselves, some reefs being stationary, while others are receding, and partly by different sources of origin dependent on their geographical situation. Throughout all the groups Stanley Gardiner found evidence of an invasion of species, probably by the dispersal of their larval stages along the great oceanic currents, from the East Indies, where there seems to have been a great outburst of new species in about Pleistocene times. One difficulty in accepting this explanation lies in the fact that we know too little about the length of time through which such a larva can survive, and, as Stanley Gardiner points out, the study

of the plankton catches at different depths around the Chagos and Maldivé Archipelagoes failed to reveal any larvæ that could be assigned to littoral animals. It has been suggested to me, however, that floating structures, such as tree-trunks or pieces of pumice, which after the explosion of Krakatoa drifted for years across the whole width of the Indian Ocean and were eventually flung up in thousands on all the coral banks of the Maldives, Laccadives and Chagos, may well have served as temporary rafts on which the larvæ might settle and develop to the adult stage, and thus provide a further succession of larvæ that might eventually reach even the farthest islands.

R. B. SEYMOUR SEWELL.

## Obituary

Prof. J. G. Harrower

THE death is announced at the early age of forty-six years of Prof. Harrower, who as professor of anatomy at the King Edward VII Medical College, and consulting surgeon at the General Hospital, Singapore, rendered great services to medical education in Singapore.

Prof. Harrower received his primary education at Shields Road School, Glasgow, and then with two bursaries at Allan Glen's Higher Grade School, after which he became an apprentice in an engineering shop. On the completion of his five years' apprenticeship he joined the staff of the electrical power station of the Glasgow Corporation Tramways as a shift engineer. During this time he attended classes in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and so acquired that facility in mathematics which was displayed in his biometrical research in craniology. He devoted particular attention to electrical engineering so as to equip himself for practice in X-ray work and radiology, but he did not pursue this aim.

The stimulating example of Prof. Le Gros Clark, who was inspired by his life in Sarawak to begin his important researches on "The Early Forerunners of Man", prompted Harrower to take advantage of living in the same city as the Raffles Museum and to study the comparative anatomy of the tree-shrews and *Nycticebus*, as well as human remains that came to light in the Malay States.

The work of departmental teaching involved the study of Chinese coolies and, in addition to recording anomalies such as the variations around the foramen magnum, which seem to attract the attention of most anatomists who work in Africa and Asia, Harrower devoted much attention to the intensive study of the Hokien and Tamil skull and the Hylam Chinese. How carefully he dealt with this difficult subject is revealed in the memoirs published in *Biometrika* (1929) and the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, 1925-26. These researches,

which were accomplished in the face of considerable local difficulty in Singapore, served to bring him into touch with others similarly occupied—Prof. Joseph Shellshear in Hong-kong, Prof. O. Hill in Colombo, Prof. Davidson Black in Peking—so that a chain of links was established to form a bond of union between workers who might otherwise have been isolated.

For Harrower these contacts were particularly important, for they encouraged him to persist with his research in face of obstacles which might have been discouraging. As it was, he was a genial and happy man who was able to play his part in maintaining scientific effort in the south-eastern corner of Asia, and in so doing bring credit to his Alma Mater at Glasgow.

GRAFTON ELLIOT SMITH.

WE regret to learn that at the beginning of this year Dr. Kálmán Lambrecht, the palæontologist, died at Budapest from heart failure in his forty-seventh year. He was librarian to the Geological Survey of Hungary, and will be best remembered by his researches and writings on the fossil remains of birds. In 1921 he contributed the section on birds to the "Fossilium Catalogus", and in 1933 he published his exhaustive "Handbuch der Palæornithologie", which was reviewed in *NATURE* of January 19, 1935, p. 84. Dr. Lambrecht was also interested in biography, and at the time of his death he was occupied with a life of the late Baron Francis Nopcsa.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Sir Wilmot Herringham, C.B., K.C.M.G., consulting physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, vice-chancellor of the University of London in 1912-15, on April 23, aged eighty-one years.

Prof. Karl Pearson, F.R.S., emeritus professor and formerly Galton professor of eugenics in the University of London, on April 27, aged seventy-nine years.