

prohibitive sum for poor villagers in India. Napier found the village cases near Calcutta to amount to 33 per thousand population, a rate which would give one million in Bengal. The true number must be much less, as in large areas the prevalence is far less than near Calcutta. Owing to their much more scattered distribution in Bengal than in Assam,

and the absence of qualified doctors in Indian villages, the problem of treatment in Bengal is more difficult, and requires for its solution a far cheaper preparation, which is equally effective as the pentavalent antimony ones. With such a drug and sufficient village medical staff, kala-azar could be reduced to small proportions.

## OBITUARIES

Sir William Prout, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.

THE death of Sir William T. Prout occurred on November 18, at his residence at the Manor House, Lingfield, Surrey. He was born in 1862, the son of Mr. William Prout of Mauritius, and was educated in the University of Edinburgh, graduating in medicine in 1884. He served as a medical officer in Mauritius until his transfer as an assistant Colonial surgeon under the Colonial Office in the Gold Coast in 1888, serving later in the Gambia until his promotion to the post of principal medical officer in Sierra Leone in 1895, where he was an official member of Legislative Council until his retirement in 1906.

During his service in these territories, Prout acquired valuable knowledge and experience in the treatment of tropical diseases, publishing original papers on yaws ("Diseases of Warm Climates" Davidson); *Filaria volvulus* (*Arch. Parasit.*, May 1901); filariasis in Sierra Leone (*Brit. Med. J.*, 1902), etc. He was actively interested in the preventive aspect of tropical medicine, and in the improvement of conditions of life for both Europeans and natives. It was largely due to his initiative that application of the principles of tropical sanitation became increasingly employed in West Africa and elsewhere, with the corresponding improvement in life and health which has been such a marked feature in the early years of this century.

Following his retirement from West Africa in 1906, Prout became honorary lecturer in tropical medicine in the University of Liverpool. He was appointed medical adviser to the Colonial Office in 1912, and later became consulting physician to the Colonial Office until his retirement in 1929, serving during the War of 1914-18 with the R.A.M.C. in Egypt, and being twice mentioned in dispatches. He was one of the original members of the Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee of the Colonial Office of which he remained a member until his death, and was an ex-president of the Tropical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, a fellow of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine.

The honour of C.M.G. was conferred on him in 1905, that of knighthood in 1924, and K.C.M.G. in 1928, while he also received an O.B.E. (military) for his war service.

He married Miss Mary Mackenzie in 1888 and had two children, a son being killed during the War of 1914-18.

A. E. HORN.

Mr. P. H. Grimshaw, I.S.O.

PERCY HALL GRIMSHAW found the bent of his life when in 1895 he forsook a clerk's stool in a bank in Leeds to fill a post in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. His earlier interests had been botanical, but the chance that, of his colleagues in the Natural History Department, Dr. R. H. Traquair was particularly interested in fossil fishes and Dr. Eagle Clarke in birds and mammals, turned his attention to the lower forms of animal life, and he singled out for investigation the insects and particularly the Diptera. His papers, mostly published in the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* and its successor the *Scottish Naturalist*, which for many years he assisted in editing, added greatly to the knowledge of the distribution of insects in Scotland, and he travelled widely on the mainland and in the outer islands to collect material for his "Diptera Scotica" and other contributions.

One of his interesting discoveries was the presence in Great Britain of a bot-fly (*Cephenomyia rufibarbis*) parasitic on red-deer, and his study of the life-history of the destructive heather-beetle (*Lochmæa suturalis*), made in connexion with the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease, suggested the few measures of control which seem to be possible.

When he was appointed keeper of the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum in 1930, Grimshaw continued the development of the educational appeal of the exhibits, and under his supervision was created a Children's Gallery which for the attractiveness and suggestiveness of its collections would be difficult to beat.

On his retiral from the keepership in 1935 he was decorated with the Imperial Service Order. He died suddenly on November 14, at the age of sixty-nine years.

JAMES RITCHIE.

Prof. Anton von Eiselsberg

PROF. ANTON FREIHERR VON EISELSBERG, the eminent Vienna surgeon, who died last October, was born at Steinhaus in Upper Austria on July 31, 1860. He received his medical education in Vienna, Wurzburg, Zurich and Paris, and qualified in Vienna in 1884. After serving as assistant to Prof. Billroth, the pioneer in visceral surgery, he was appointed successively professor of surgery at Utrecht (1893), Königsberg (1896) and Vienna (1901), where he retired in 1931. Besides being a first-class operator and a

remarkable teacher, he was the author of numerous experimental and clinical publications, of which the most important were on the occurrence of tetany after operations for goitre (1890), diseases of the thyroid (1903), and the modern treatment of fractures (1905). He was also co-editor of the *Archiv für klinische Chirurgie*, which dedicated to him its 140th volume on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his professorship in 1926, and of the *Mitteilungen aus der Grenzgebiete der Medizin und Chirurgie*. During the War of 1914-18, in which he was appointed consultant to the Austro-Hungarian Navy, his services were much in request especially as regards abdominal wounds and amputations.

Eiselsberg had many friends in Great Britain, where he was elected Hon. F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1905, Hon. F.R.C.S. England in 1913, where he delivered the Hunterian Lecture in 1932, and honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1928. His autobiography, under the title of "Lebensweg eines Chirurgen", appeared a few months before his death.

J. D. ROLLESTON.

#### Prof. R. I. Meyer

PROF. RICHARD I. MEYER, whose death, at the age of seventy-four years, occurred on June 18, was one of the best known inorganic chemists in Germany. Born in Berlin on August 24, 1865, he built up a reputation early in life by his researches on rare earths, thallium and scandium; his discovery of scandium in tungsten and tin slags enabled him to produce this element—then considered one of the rarest—in sufficient quantity for its thorough chemical and physical investigation. From 1897 onwards, for twenty-five years, Meyer was associated with Prof. Arthur Rosenheim in Berlin in the conduct of a private scientific chemical laboratory in which, under the guidance of these two men, university students carried out valuable research work in inorganic chemistry—a branch of chemistry frequently neglected in the official university laboratories in Germany, which were almost without exception directed by organic chemists.

On his retirement from this laboratory in 1922, Prof. Meyer was entrusted by the German Chemical Society with the organization of the eighth edition of "Gmelin's Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry" which, in this new form, is as outstanding in its field as is the famous "Beilstein" handbook in organic chemistry. The achievement of this high standard is due to the comprehensive editorial programme laid down by Meyer, to his discriminating choice of co-workers, and to his careful supervision of every detail in the publication of the first twenty or so volumes. Even after withdrawing from the editorship, he helped by writing the manuscript of the introductory volume on rare earths; his name, however, was omitted from the title page when the volume appeared in print—a fate which quite frequently befell 'non-Aryan' authors in Germany after 1933.

Not only in his editorial activities were Prof. Meyer's organizing abilities of high value, but also in his work as one of the members of the International

Committee on Atomic Weights—for the reports of which he was largely responsible—and as a member of the International Committee on Inorganic Nomenclature. Everybody who came in touch with him was delighted to find not only a chemist of wide erudition and outlook but also a highly cultivated man of great personal charm who was as interested in questions of art, especially music, as in science. It was a matter of intense pleasure and pride to him to see this part of his inheritance come to full development in his highly gifted only son, who became a successful orchestral conductor.

No obituary article on the work of this excellent chemist appeared in any German journal; no official representative of the German Chemical Society attended the funeral of the man who had so devotedly worked for many years in the society's publishing offices. Nevertheless, his name will be gratefully remembered inside and outside Germany as the first editor-in-chief of the now "Gmelin" by present and future generations of chemists who will consult this monumental work.

#### Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing

SCIENCE, not only in the Soviet Union, but also the world over, has suffered a great loss in the death on October 24 of Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing, member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and director of the Petrographical Institute in Moscow.

Franz Youlievich Loewinson-Lessing was born in St. Petersburg on March 9 (February 25, Old Style), 1861. After graduating in 1883 at the University of St. Petersburg, he worked for some years as an assistant at that University. In 1892 he was appointed professor of geology, petrology and mineralogy at the University of Dorpat (Youriev) and in 1902 was the first holder of the chair of geology, petrology and mineralogy in the newly founded St. Petersburg Polytechnic Institute. In 1925 he was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and director of the Geological Museum. He was the founder and first director of the Petrographical Institute. He was an honorary or foreign member of a number of scientific societies at home and abroad, including the Geological Society of London.

Prof. Loewinson-Lessing was the leading petrologist in Russia and was well known internationally. The bulk of his work was published in Russian, but he also contributed quite a number of papers to English, American, French and German periodicals. Although his main interest was in the petrology of igneous rocks, he published a number of papers dealing with mineralogy, geology and ore-deposits. His books include "Tables for the Determination of Rock-forming Minerals" (English translation, 1893), "Petrographical Tables" (1905, 1911), "Text-book of Crystallography" (1911, 1923), "Introduction to Geology" (1923), "Progress of Petrology in Russia" (1923), "Petrology" (1925), "History of Petrology" (1936, English translation forthcoming). Altogether he was responsible for more than two hundred papers and books.