

found in Australia that made him release the Wadjak specimens—which also had Australoid characters. In 1924 he at last published excellent illustrations of the brain cast of *Pithecanthropus* and also produced a piece of a fossil mandible which he had found in 1890 and now attributed to *Pithecanthropus*. In 1932 he produced fragments of three more thigh bones of *Pithecanthropus*.

The cemetery of fossil man which was discovered and exploited by Dr. Dubois in Java has proved to be rich beyond any other in every respect—rich in actual numbers and in types which preserve details of the sequence of humanity that has flitted across the time stage of Java these million of years past. The series begins as ape-men and ends in the aboriginal type of modern Australia. Only in this Australo-Malayan part of the world is the evolutionary history of man known with any degree of fullness<sup>5</sup>, and for this we are chiefly indebted to Dr. Eugene Dubois.

A. KEITH.

<sup>1</sup> See *NATURE*, 144, 926 (1939).

<sup>2</sup> "Antiquity of Man", Second Edition, p. 438.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Dubois was above medium stature, and although full-bodied, carried himself rather rigidly erect. When in England in 1895 he seemed to be under thirty years of age; from the above statement one infers he must have been born about 1858.

<sup>4</sup> This letter, although it contains further interesting details, is too long to give in full; the original is to be added to the library of the Royal College of Surgeons, (London, W.C.2).

<sup>5</sup> See Keith, *NATURE*, 133, 277 (1936).

### Sir Hugh Murray, C.I.E., C.B.E.

SIR HUGH MURRAY died at Nunton Cottage, Bodenham, Salisbury, on February 9. For more than fifty years Hugh Murray was connected with and played an active part in the development of forestry and forestry administration in India and Great Britain; both Bombay and England will long remember him and his delightful personality. Murray was born on April 27, 1861. He was educated at Trent College and took his forestry training on the Continent. He joined the Indian Forest Service in 1882, being appointed to the Bombay Presidency.

As a district forest officer, Murray acquired the reputation of being a hard-working and tactful officer, and this recognition was fully maintained when he reached administrative rank in the Presidency. During the twenty-nine years of his service there were some very difficult forestry problems bearing upon the habits and customs of the agricultural population in Bombay which came up for, if not solution, at any rate settlement for the time being. As he rose in seniority Murray was able to give valuable advice in this direction; especially when he occupied the position of Senior Conservator in the Presidency and Additional Member of the Provincial Legislature. He retired from the Indian Service in 1911.

Soon after the outbreak of the War of 1914–1918, Murray was called into the War Office to advise on the then urgent and totally new question of obtaining timber supplies under war conditions. For three years he was thus occupied, becoming deputy controller of timber supplies in 1917.

The Forestry Commission was inaugurated in 1920 as a result of the Parliamentary Bill of 1919. A

number of commissioners were appointed, and a technical assistant commissioner for England and Wales and a second for Scotland. Murray was appointed to the English post, and a better choice at that time could probably not have been made, for senior trained foresters with ripe administrative experience were few in number. His chief work was connected with the acquisition of land for the new State forests, and in this he displayed great ability. He was equally interested in the planting work then being started on a large scale and in the research inaugurated at this period. After four years Murray was appointed a forestry commissioner, thereby strengthening the technical position of the Commission. He remained a commissioner until 1934, when he finally retired.

He married, first, Gwendoline Mabel Langridge and had a son; and secondly, Dorothy Christine, daughter of the Right Hon. Sir William Mather, and had a son and daughter. E. P. STEBBING.

### Mr. J. Picken

MR. JAMES PICKEN, one of the alkali inspectors in the service of the Ministry of Health, died suddenly on February 17, aged forty-six. After a period of service with the Royal Garrison Artillery in France, Mr. Picken took his degree at the University of Glasgow, and was afterwards for some years in charge of the Glasgow Corporation's chemical works at Dawsholme and Provan. He received his appointment as one of H.M. inspectors of alkali works in 1924, and from that time had been in charge of the Sheffield district, where his unflinching tact and courtesy, together with the efficient but sympathetic manner in which he carried out his duties, had earned him the respect and affection of all with whom he came into contact.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Annie J. Cannon, assistant in the Harvard College Observatory during 1897–1911, and curator of astronomical photographs since 1911, aged seventy-seven.

Dr. David Forsyth, an authority on the diseases of children, on April 10, aged sixty-three.

Sir Nigel Gresley, chief mechanical engineer of the London and North-Eastern Railway, on April 5, aged seventy-six.

Prof. K. N. Konstantinovich, director of the Moscow Institute of Experimental Biology and formerly director of the Central Station of Genetics, aged sixty-nine.

Mr. J. C-S. McDouall, O.B.E., formerly director of Medical Sanitary Services, Sierra Leone, on March 25.

Prof. Carlos G. Malbran, professor of bacteriology in the University of Buenos Aires.

Sir Albert Seward, F.R.S., professor of botany in the University of Cambridge during 1906–36, on April 11, aged seventy-seven.

Prof. Roy B. Smith, emeritus professor of chemistry in Colgate University, aged sixty-five.