

progress of mankind it can be confidently predicted that they will contribute again to the advancement of chemistry.

- <sup>1</sup> *Krok*, 2, 63 (1824).  
<sup>2</sup> *Krok*, 2, 616 (1824).  
<sup>3</sup> *Schweigg, J.*, 25, 410 (1819).  
<sup>4</sup> *Casopis Českého Musea*, 5, 297 (1831).  
<sup>5</sup> *Casopis Českého Musea*, 5, 80 (1931).  
<sup>6</sup> "Lučba čili Chemie Zkusná" (Prague, 1828 and 1836).  
<sup>7</sup> "Přehled Lučby čili Hmotozpytu" (Prague, 1841).  
<sup>8</sup> *Casopis Českého Musea*, 22, 143 (1848). *Ann.*, 63, 164 (1847); 65, 249 (1848).  
<sup>9</sup> *Ann.*, 71, 13 (1849).  
<sup>10</sup> *Ann.*, 48, 221 and 49, 212 (1844); 59, 57 (1846).  
<sup>11</sup> *Chem. News*, 11, 226 (1865). The General Index to the first 100 volumes of the *Chemical News*, and the Decennial Indexes of the *Journal of the Chemical Society* give many references to Štolba's papers and to those of other Czech researchers.  
<sup>12</sup> *Chem. News*, 20, 70 (1869); 36, 90 (1877) and 50, 104 (1885).  
<sup>13</sup> An account in English of Wald's theory is given in *Collection*, 3, 9 (1931).  
<sup>14</sup> *J. Chem. Soc.*, 85, 506 (1904).  
<sup>15</sup> See *NATURE*, 150, 632 (1942).  
<sup>16</sup> *J. Chem. Soc.*, 55, 634 (1889).  
<sup>17</sup> *Vestník Král. Česk. Spol. Nauk.* (1899).

## OBITUARIES

### Dr. C. J. S. Thompson, M.B.E.

DR. C. J. S. THOMPSON, who died recently, was born at Liverpool in 1862. As a young man he studied chemistry and pharmacy and became interested in the historical aspect of these subjects. In 1898 his close association with what was ultimately to become the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum commenced. From this date he played an active part in assisting Sir Henry Wellcome in the work of collecting, classifying and assembling the ever-increasing store of material. In 1913, he became the first conservator of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.

Thompson travelled widely and was a successful collector: he was much interested in the literature of his subject, and played an important part in establishing the large research library attached to the Museum. In the International Congresses of the History of Medicine he played a prominent part, more especially in the Congress held in London in 1922. He was a prolific writer with a wide knowledge of his subject, a ready pen and a popular style. He covered a large field in his numerous articles and books, many of which were popular in character and dealt with such subjects as alchemy, crime, quackery, apparitions, monsters, magic and love. He also compiled in collaboration with Sir D'Arcy Power a most useful "Chronologia Medica".

His connexion with the Wellcome Museum terminated in 1926, and in the following year he was elected honorary curator of the Historical Collection of the Royal College of Surgeons. His "History and Evolution of Surgical Instruments", published in the United States in 1942, was opportune, for in May 1941 much of the collection had been destroyed by enemy action.

During the War of 1914-18 he was in charge of an auxiliary military hospital at Harrow, for which work he was awarded the M.B.E.

Thompson was a great enthusiast, an indefatigable worker, and a good organizer. For such a man retirement is merely the opportunity for further work and, to the end, he was busily occupied with the subject

which he had made so peculiarly his own. He did much to popularize a branch of medicine which in Great Britain has never received the recognition it deserves.

S. H. DAUKES.

### Dr. R. W. Gray

ROBERT WALKER GRAY, born at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, in 1864, came of whaling stock. His grandfather and his father were well-known skippers in the Peterhead whaling fleet, and the latter, doubtless inspired by the example of the Scoresbys, made many records of his observations in the Arctic seas. David Gray's "Notes on the Greenland Whale" appeared in annual reports of the Scottish Fishery Board and elsewhere, accounts of the year's whaling in the *Buchan Observer*, and Southwell made use of some of his information in his articles on sealing and whaling. It was natural, therefore, that one of the sustained interests of the son, R. W. Gray, should be in whales and whaling. His name appears in the roll-book of the natural history class at the University of Edinburgh for the session 1887-88, when he was in his twenty-third year, and he graduated in medicine at that University in 1892. Having already made several voyages to the Greenland Sea, he became surgeon upon his father's whaler, *Eclipse*, at a time when the Peterhead whaling was all but extinguished, and his subsequent experience included voyages with the Orient Line as medical officer, the study of sleeping sickness in Africa, and a long period of general practice in towns on the south coast of England.

Since his earliest accounts of voyages to the Greenland Sea appeared in the *Zoologist* in 1887 and 1889, Dr. Gray continued to publish articles bearing upon the history of the whale-fishery and on whales and their habits. He contributed the account of "Whale Fisheries" to the ninth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica", and his description of the rise and decline of the "Peterhead Sealers and Whalers" in the *Scottish Naturalist* of 1932 and 1933 was a valuable contribution to the history of the whaling industry. Dr. Gray's knowledge of the literature of whaling was thorough, and he made good use of it and of his own experiences in discussing, in the *Naturalist* and in occasional letters to *NATURE*, debated points concerning the physiology of whales.

Dr. Gray had a quiet unassuming manner and a mind richly stored with memories of his adventures in the Greenland Sea and Davis Straits. Having retired from medical practice, he died early in July in Exeter, after a short period of failing health, in his seventy-ninth year.

JAMES RITCHIE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. H. C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, during 1902-11, on June 21, aged eighty-one.

Mr. F. J. Cleminson, honorary director of research, Ferens Institute of Oto-laryngology, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, on August 21, aged sixty-five.

Mr. Arthur S. Newman, the well-known camera designer and photographic expert, on August 12, aged eighty-two.

Prof. F. Schlesinger, emeritus professor of astronomy in Yale University, on July 10, aged seventy-two.