

financial resources. The proposed reduction in the number of provincial centres should allow greater numbers of specialists at each centre, and the development of out-stations of the provincial service should ensure that no part of the country was isolated from specialist assistance and that areas with special and distinctive needs would have necessary assistance. The provincial centres were to be established in university towns, though they would not be administered by the universities. The case for the integration of the existing advisory services into a comprehensive national service was strong. The agricultural industry would be better served by an organized and co-ordinated service, and greater opportunities for promotion and improved professional status would ensure that capable and energetic men entered the service.

OBITUARIES

Lieut.-Colonel Stanley Casson

BORN in 1889, Stanley Casson went from Merchant Taylors School to Lincoln College, Oxford, and held a senior scholarship at St. John's and a studentship at the British School of Archaeology at Athens. In 1914 the War interrupted his studies, but he made good use of local opportunities in Macedonia and returned thither for excavation after the Armistice. During 1919-22 he was assistant-director of the School, and was elected in 1920 to a fellowship of New College, which combined opportunity for travel and research with a limited amount of lecturing under Prof. Percy Gardner, to whose philosophic outlook he owed much.

In 1924, Casson's historical geography of "Macedonia, Thrace and Illyria" won the Conington Prize, and after its publication in 1929 he produced a series of studies of Greek and modern sculpture—"The Technique of Early Greek Sculpture", "Some Modern Sculptors", "Twentieth Century Sculpture, and Artists at Work"—the result of much thought, observation and experiment in technique and equipment. In 1927 he was promoted to a university lectureship, and in 1928 he was proctor. In 1929 he explored the Hippodrome at Constantinople for the British Academy. In later years he gave much time to organized visits of younger students to Greece, and to more general and popular writings, "The Progress of Archaeology" (1935), "The Discovery of Mars" (1939) and "Progress and Catastrophe" (1937), the last a remarkable anticipation of present disasters. He wrote also reminiscences of war service, a detective story, a volume of essays on "Ancient Cyprus" (1937), and in 1939-43 valuable summaries of the history and services of the Greeks, "Greece and Britain", "Greece and the Axis" and a re-issue of his "Ancient Greece". He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, honorary associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, member of the German Archaeological Institute and honorary member of the Bulgarian Archaeological Institute. In 1939 he rejoined the Intelligence Corps, served in the Netherlands and in Greece, and was again on active service when he was killed in April 1944. He leaves a wife and one daughter.

Casson was a devoted and effective exponent of Greek antiquity, in all aspects and periods, especially of the sculpture and its counterparts in modern Europe. He had also exceptionally wide knowledge of the modern Greek people, among whom he was widely known and very popular. JOHN L. MYRES.

Mr. L. V. Lester-Garland

LESTER VALLIS LESTER-GARLAND (*olim* Lester), who died on March 23, was of the scholarly type of botanist more common in former days. Born on July 28, 1860, he was educated at Sherborne School and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he held a demyship. He took a first in classical moderations and in 'Greats'. After being an assistant master at St. Edward's School, Oxford, during 1883-86, he became fellow and lecturer at St. John's College, Oxford, where he remained for ten years. In 1896 he became president of Victoria College, Jersey, retiring in 1911.

Lester-Garland is best known botanically for his "Flora of the Island of Jersey", published in 1903. This small volume is a model of what a local Flora should be. Incidentally, it was the first British Flora to adopt the Engler system of classification. In the introduction he asserts that if British botanists "are ever to emancipate themselves from the insular ideas which too often dominate the science, they will have to learn to look abroad, and realize that British plants grow in other places besides Great Britain and Ireland, and that the British flora is only an insignificant portion of the flora of the globe". The need was probably brought home to him by the continental affinities of the Jersey flora, with its conspicuous Mediterranean element; it led him to criticize the continued use of Watson's 'types' as tending to limit the views of British botanists on plant distribution.

His only other botanical publications were short papers, but for some time after leaving Jersey he was prominent in London botanical circles, and served on the council of the Linnean Society during 1923-26. On moving to Bathford he busied himself with local affairs and restricted his writings to religious philosophy.

Lester-Garland had a charming and unassuming manner which covered not only a wise, scholarly knowledge but also a sense of humour and convictions which were strongly, but not stupidly, held.

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Dr. A. R. Jackson

WITH the death of Dr. A. Randall Jackson at his home in Chester on March 18 we lose our leading British systematic arachnologist. Despite a busy medical practice, he always found time to provide unstinted help to numerous correspondents in the identification of their collections of British and Arctic spiders, phalangids and chelonethids. This flair for diagnosis has never been surpassed. It enabled him both to straighten out the synonymic muddles created by other workers and also to add many species to the British list. Despite the constant pleadings of his friends, he published comparatively few papers and, as these were often in obscure journals, the excellence of his work never gained the wide recognition it deserved.

A rugged exterior concealed a sensitive and sentimental nature with a deep interest in the beauty of good literature, paintings and garden flowers. A manner, at times somewhat cynical, was apt to hide a keen sense of humour, conscientious attention to his medical practice and, above all, the kindness and generosity he always showed to young collectors. His death is a serious loss to British arachnology.

W. S. BRISTOWE.