

SOME CAMBRIDGE MEN

Alumni Cantabrigienses

A Biographical List of all known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge from the Earliest Times to 1900. Compiled by Dr. J. A. Venn. Part 2: From 1752 to 1900. Vol. 2: Chalmers—Fyetehe. Pp. iv+ 594. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1944.) £7 10s. 0d. net.

GLANCING through this volume, one gains the impression that the great majority of Cambridge graduates in the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries went into the church or into the professions of law and medicine; a smaller number became schoolmasters, entered the army or took up government service at home or abroad. The link between the clerical profession and an active scientific career was closer then than it is now, and it is not without interest that Charles Darwin, the outstanding figure in this volume, went to Cambridge to get a degree as a necessary preliminary to a career in the church. The Darwin family, with William, George, Francis and Horace, provides the best example of the inheritance of scientific power.

One of the most striking groups to be noted is that of the explorers. Doughty of *Arabia Deserta* may be coupled with Drake, the companion of Palmer and Burton. Cheadle with Viscount Milton was an early explorer of western Canada, while Clifton travelled with the Eskimos to the hunting-ground of the musk ox. The latter also broke new ground in Africa, as did Cotterill at Lake Chiassi and Crichton-Browne in Morocco. De Windt in his adventurous travels as a newspaper correspondent gained intimate knowledge of the insides of Siberian prisons. Polar explorers include Ferrar, geologist with Scott, and Fisher, astronomer to Parry on his expedition to find the north-west passage. Of Viscount Melville it is stated that he greatly encouraged Arctic explorations.

Martin Conway and E. A. Fitzgerald provide a link between explorers and climbers. Among the latter we find Cust, who made the first guideless ascent of the Matterhorn, Julius Elliott, also John Ellis, who was in the first ascent of the Finsteraarhorn. Other branches of sport are represented by R. F. and H. L. Doherty, Steve Fairbairn and Henry Foster, father of the seven Fosters of Oxford and Worcestershire. Admiral Fawkes was in a service not frequently claiming Cambridge men until the days of the 'Cambridge Navy' after the War of 1914-18. The Army is much more generally supported, especially through those who fought in that War. William Edwards of Trinity won the V.C. in 1883.

Coleridge, Edward Fitzgerald, Lowes Dickinson and Crabbe stand for literature in this volume. Politicians are numerous: Austen Chamberlain, Harold Cox, with his uncontrollable conscience, Clarkson the abolitionist, and Thomas Creevey of the "Creevey Papers" illustrate a wide diversity of types. Lorimer Fison, student of the Australian aborigines, turns the mind to James Frazer of the "Golden Bough".

The names of professional men of science occur in great numbers: we find two Astronomers Royal in Christie and Dyson, while Fallows was only prevented by an untimely death from being the first H.M. Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope. The Royal Institution is represented by Humphry Davy, James Dewar and Michael Foster. Of mathematicians we

may name Chrystal, Forsyth, W. K. Clifford and Augustus de Morgan. Entomologists include Baron Walsingham, who studied the smallest of moths, and Eltringham. Fitton worthily represents geology, W. R. Fisher Indian forestry, and W. H. Cole the Indian survey. John Elliott organized meteorology in India, other geophysicists being Dines the meteorologist, and Davison the seismologist. William Fairbairn, Dalby and Ewing were notable engineers, the two latter doing valuable work for the Admiralty in the War of 1914-18. Froude, the naval architect, has his name linked with the Froude tank at the National Physical Laboratory. Medicine has many names. Here we mention Walter Fletcher, organizer of the Medical Research Council, and Elliotson, who first used the stethoscope. The latter was of independent mind; he was one of the pioneers in the use of mesmerism, and he was the first to discard the knee breeches and silk stockings worn by his colleagues.

There remain for mention a few who catch the eye by something unusual in their careers. The Rev. W. B. Clarke discovered gold in New South Wales. Dunville was a keen racer in balloons, while Edward D. Clark kept an immense balloon for some days in the hall of Jesus College, finally launching it from the Cloister Court. The thirteenth-century arches in that Court were discovered by Osmond Fisher in 1840 and opened up by him fifty years later. The Hon. Richard Fitzwilliam gave the University the magnificent benefaction of the Fitzwilliam Museum. De Thierry, a French refugee, became an adventurer—"King Charles" of New Zealand. A less reputable adventurer was James Fennell, the actor, "who never paid his bills and passed his life between a palace and a prison".

F. J. M. STRATTON.

ANTIGENS AND ANTIBODIES

The Specificity of Serological Reactions

By Dr. Karl Landsteiner. Revised edition. With a Chapter on Molecular Structure and Intermolecular Forces, by Linus Pauling. Pp. xiv+310. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1945.) 28s. net.

THE study of serological reactions has for years attracted many workers. There have been fierce controversies between the exponents of differing theories, and these controversies have stimulated both thought and work. During the last thirty years progress has been very rapid, and continues to be so, although relatively little work has been possible in Great Britain during the war years. The production of a revised edition of this extremely valuable book is therefore most welcome.

The new edition is very greatly expanded and almost completely rewritten because of the rapidity of the advances made during the eight years since the previous one. Further, two new chapters have been added; the one on antigen-antibody reactions and the other, written by Linus Pauling, on "Molecular Structure and Intermolecular Forces". In the former there is a historical survey of the theories of antigen-antibody reactions followed by a discussion of those current to-day. In the latter, Dr. Pauling gives a short, clear account of the relation of intermolecular forces to molecular structure which does, however, necessarily assume a considerable preliminary acquaintance with the subject.