

attractively illustrated exposition of the state of genetics at the time.

Hurst was gifted with fine powers of observation. He had, too, enthusiasm for an idea and a capacity for sustained and pertinacious work, both of which he devoted whole-heartedly to the furtherance of genetical science. That he was somewhat lacking in critical faculty may have been due to the fact that he had not been through the academic 'mill'. He was fortunate, however, in that his collaboration with William Bateson brought him into close touch with a critical mind of the highest order. Without that influence he might have become more the gifted amateur than the solid contributor to the science that claimed his interest.

R. C. PUNNETT

Dr. Stephen Miall

THE death of Stephen Miall on October 12, 1947, in his seventy-fifth year, inflicted on chemists an irreparable loss. Yet, paradoxically—and he enjoyed a paradox as much as any man—Miall was not a chemist at all. Of Yorkshire stock, with an inherited leaning towards science or, at any rate, towards natural philosophy, he was articled to his uncle, partner in a London firm of solicitors, when nineteen years old. He took prizes and the degree of LL.D., but right up to his end many hundreds of industrial chemists in Great Britain and elsewhere must have been entirely unaware that 'Doctor' Miall—that kindly, erudite, sociable, eclectic personality emerging almost as clearly from his editorials in *Chemistry and Industry* as from his twinkling eyes and grave smile, when one met him—was, in fact, a doctor of law and not of science at all.

Nevertheless, his contact with the chemical industry dates back to the beginning of the century, when he became very much concerned with the manufacture of white lead and, as a result, with the humanitarian aspect of that technology; that is, with lead poisoning as an industrial hazard, in connexion with which he more than once attended an International Labour Conference or discussions at the International Labour Office. Some time after qualifying in law, he also took a London B.Sc.

Miall's editorship of *Chemistry and Industry* began in 1922, and he remained at this post until two and a third years before his death. During his retirement, his health was not what his many friends and admirers had hoped for him; but he often found time and ability to join them at his favourite local haunt or in the Savage Club, where his wisdom, knowledge and slightly mordant wit, almost always mitigated by a cheerful grin, made him a most popular as well as a distinguished and unmistakable figure. He had great erudition, though it was wide rather than deep. He used it to illuminate both his attractively and, indeed, uniquely written editorials and his very deliberate but equally unique conversation, an art the apparent passing of which he always deplored. Homer and Horace as often furnished his reading—and his quotations—as did the English classics: he knew them all intimately.

Among his activities, besides his editorial work, have been the compiling of a light-verse anthology, "Poets at Play", active participation in the Society of Yorkshiremen in London and 'The Catalysts' Club', and the writing and editing, jointly or alone, of books designed to strengthen the links between chemists, especially industrial chemists, and the non-scientific world, particularly that part of it

concerned with the arts. It is not surprising that his death will be mourned by a large and varied collection of individuals, some of whom may never have met him and will therefore not experience the strong sense of personal loss that is common to all those who had.

A. L. B.
P. J. V.

Prof. G. C. MacCurdy

NEWS has been received of the death in a road accident, at the age of eighty-four, of Dr. G. G. MacCurdy, the well-known prehistorian and professor emeritus of Yale University.

George Grant MacCurdy came from the southern branch of a well-known New England family, which had retained a close contact with Great Britain. He was a graduate of Harvard and of Yale, and from 1894 until 1898 he followed postgraduate courses in anthropology at the Universities of Paris, Berlin and Vienna. During 1900–31 he was successively lecturer in anthropology, assistant professor of prehistoric archaeology, and research associate with the rank of professor at Yale University, and during the whole of this time he was also curator of anthropological collections. In 1921 he took a leading part in the foundation of the American School of Prehistoric Research, and was its first director, a post he held until last year, and in which he was supported by the collaboration of his wife, Janet Glenn Bartlett, whom he had married in 1919. His tenure of the directorship was marked by the organisation of many successful vacation tours in Europe, and by participation with various British funds and institutions in prehistoric excavations in Iraq, Palestine and Bulgaria.

This work was very close to Dr. MacCurdy's heart, and he was justly proud of the leading part played by a member of his own school, Theodore D. McCown, in the discovery of the new human fossil, Mount Carmel man, during 1931–32. His disinterested courage and vision in thus committing his school to a participation in field-work in which he himself was not free to take an active part has been of incalculable value to the advancement of prehistoric studies in the last twenty years, and will be his lasting monument.

His friends and pupils will cherish an affectionate memory of a distinguished scholar with a singularly kindly, gentle and modest personality.

D. A. E. GARROD

Prof. Max Planck, For Mem.R.S.

PROF. J. R. PARTINGTON writes: I knew Planck as professor of theoretical physics in the University of Berlin. His course was spread over more than one year, and I began with the last and most difficult part, comprising thermodynamics, the theory of heat, relativity, and quantum theory, next year taking the first part, which dealt with general mechanics and the theory of deformable bodies. The lectures began at 9 a.m. in the University building in Unter den Linden; they were very well attended, and there were always many standing around the room. As the lecture-room was well heated and rather close, some of the listeners would from time to time drop to the floor, but this did not disturb the lecture. The windows were all closed, partly because of the intense cold and partly because of the noise of the changing of the guard outside. There was also an