

OBITUARIES

8/ Sir Frederick W. Moore

By the death on August 23 of Sir Frederick Moore, Ireland has lost her premier horticulturist and Britain a very eminent student and grower of plants. He was born ninety-two years ago in the house in the Botanic Garden at Glasnevin. He studied in Dublin and Leyden, was engaged in practical gardening in Belgium, and succeeded to the keepership at Glasnevin on the death of his father, Dr. David Moore, also a noteworthy horticulturist and an energetic field botanist as well. At Glasnevin Sir Frederick lived and worked until his retirement after forty-three years service. The collections at Glasnevin, already notable, were added to greatly during his long term of office, and a high standard of culture was attained. Handicapped neither by the smoke of London nor the cold winds of Edinburgh, Glasnevin became an important centre of horticulture. Not that conditions were ideal there—"a droughty, draughty gravel-ridge" was the way Sir Frederick described the place to me more than fifty years ago; but his skill and knowledge succeeded in minimizing these disadvantages, and he showed a wise generosity in distributing difficult or half-hardy plants among the many Irish gardens more favourably situated, which rival in climate and soil those of Devon or Cornwall. He neither travelled much nor wrote much, and did no collecting in foreign lands, but devoted himself to the cultivation of the plants which he acquired from every part of the world. He was a horticulturist essentially, with an honoured name wherever rare or interesting plants are grown, and was ever ready to help with practical advice. Endowed with great physical and mental vigour almost to the end, he was a tower of strength in all matters relating to gardening and horticulture.

In Ireland Sir Frederick was a familiar figure in all the good gardens of that favoured country and at horticultural shows and occasions of a like nature. To the advancement of the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland he did much, first as secretary for many years and then as president; when that Society instituted a gold medal of honour, he was one of the first recipients. From the Royal Horti-

cultural Society he received the Victoria Medal of Honour and also the Veitch Memorial Medal in silver and in gold. In scientific life in Dublin he played an active part and served long on the council of the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Zoological Society and other bodies; of the latter he was president for five years. He received the degree of M.A. from the Royal University of Ireland, Sc.D. from the University of Dublin, and in 1911 a knighthood.

R. LLOYD PRAEGER

5/ Dr. F. E. Whitmore

By the death of Frank Edward Whitmore in a climbing accident on July 25, radiochemistry has lost a worker of much promise. He was twenty-six years of age.

Whitmore entered the University of Birmingham in 1945 from Handsworth Grammar School, where his talent for chemistry was already evident. He was a University scholar and later a prizeman, and duly took first-class honours in chemistry, remaining for three years after graduation to teach and to investigate single-crystal X-ray methods of determining the structure of organic crystals. This work, part of which was published in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, gained him the degree of Ph.D. and an I.C.I. research fellowship, on the award of which he migrated to the Physics Department to take up the study of radiochemistry.

His particular interest was in the chemical state of atoms newly formed by nuclear transformation, and two communications on this subject were in the press when he died. He showed, for example, that phosphorus-32 made by the action of fast neutrons on the sulphur of sodium sulphide appears, when brought into aqueous solution, as an oxyphosphorus ion. He gave much time to the general chemical problems of a nuclear physics laboratory and will be remembered as a colleague who was generously helpful as well as very able.

In his hobbies of mountaineering and amateur dramatics, his ability and likeable personality brought him early responsibilities. He will be much missed by Midland climbers as well as by chemists and physicists. He was unmarried.

5/ NEWS and VIEWS

Chief Scientist to the Ministry of Supply:
Mr. H. M. Garner, C.B.

Mr. H. M. GARNER has recently been appointed chief scientist of the Ministry of Supply, where he succeeds Sir Ben Lockspeiser. Mr. Garner has been engaged throughout the whole of his career on aeronautical research. He entered the Aerodynamics Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1917 and made notable contributions to theoretical investigations and full-scale experiments during the years 1917-29. He developed a strong interest in seaplanes and flying boats, and in 1929 was appointed chief technical officer of the Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment, where he remained until the outbreak of war, when the Station was moved to Helensburgh. Mr. Garner was a great enthusiast for marine aircraft, and during the years when he was head of this Experimental Establish-

ment he brought an expert knowledge, such as few people possessed, to the solution of many special problems and difficulties presented by flying-boats. Whether the large flying-boat—of more than 100 tons, say—will prove superior or not to the large land plane remains to be seen. But the present achievements of marine aircraft owe a great deal to Mr. Garner's enthusiasm and devotion to the subject. During the War, in 1942, his field of activity was widened by his appointment to the headquarters staff of the Ministry of Aircraft Production as deputy director of scientific research. He became, in 1946, principal director of scientific research in that Ministry, and later, on the re-organisation of Government departments, in the Ministry of Supply. He now succeeds to the post of chief scientist, to which he will bring a wide knowledge of science and research and much experience in administration.