

in official memoranda, and undertook extensive tours throughout England and Wales to impress the need for infant welfare on local educational authorities. At this time also Sir Arthur Newsholme's important reports influenced the Local Government Board to stimulate local authorities by State grants to provide a maternity and child-welfare service. The establishment of the Ministry of Health in 1919 with Dr. Campbell as the senior medical officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Branch and similar rank in the Board of Education integrated medical administrative work in Whitehall on this subject.

At the Ministry of Health, Dame Janet and her able staff did excellent work. In addition to serving on a number of important Government committees, including the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry, the Committee on the Training of Midwives and the Committee on Maternal Mortality, she served on the Health Committee of the League of Nations and rendered valuable service to international maternity and child welfare work during 1930-36. She also wrote a number of searching reports on her special subject. These led to many important reforms which have helped to reduce maternal and infant mortality in recent years.

She was created a D.B.E. in 1924, received the honorary degree of doctor of hygiene of the University of Durham, and was a justice of the peace for Surrey and for Gloucestershire. On her retirement in 1934 she married Mr. Michael Heseltine, registrar of the General Medical Council; he died in 1952.

Dame Janet was tall and good-looking. A somewhat reserved manner cloaked her enthusiasm for the cause to which she devoted her life, but those who knew her and worked with her fully appreciated her great qualities. ARTHUR S. MACNALLY

Mr. A. de C. Sowerby

ARTHUR DE CARLE SOWERBY, who died in Washington, D.C., on August 16, was a member of that branch of the Sowerby family which included such well-known scientific figures as James Sowerby, the artist-naturalist of "English Botany" fame, and James de Carle Sowerby, who was first secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Regent's Park, London.

Arthur de Carle Sowerby was born in 1885 at Taiyuan-Fu, Shansi, and during an adventurous career accomplished much to promote the study of China's natural history, both as an explorer and as a writer. Among the expeditions in which Sowerby took a prominent part was a trip to Shansi and the Ordos Desert in 1908, with Mr. Malcolm Anderson, who was collecting mammals for the British Museum under the auspices of the Duke of Bedford's Zoological Exploration of Eastern Asia. This venture was successful and resulted in many new forms of mammals being collected and sent to the British Museum, where they were duly described and reported upon. In 1909 Sowerby, in the capacity of naturalist, accompanied Mr. Robert Sterling Clark to north-western China, and thereafter, up to the end of 1917, he travelled in northern and eastern China, Inner Mongolia and Manchuria, collecting on behalf of the United States National Museum in Washington.

These journeys and their scientific results have been described by Sowerby in the travel-books which he published between 1912 and 1930. Thus, the Clark Expedition was described in "Through Shên-

Kan" (1912), written jointly with R. S. Clark. Perhaps the most important of these works by Sowerby is his "Naturalist in Manchuria", published in five volumes between 1922 and 1930, containing an account of the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna of the region.

In 1911 he organized and led the Shensi Relief Expedition during the Chinese Revolution, a mission which was successfully carried out after a journey of 2,000 miles.

After the First World War, Sowerby returned to China and busied himself with further explorations and collecting work in Fukien Province, and later made a biological survey of the country accessible from Shanghai.

In 1923 he founded the *China Journal of Science and Arts*, of which he was the editor for fifteen years. This valuable journal was a noteworthy contribution to cultural activities in Shanghai. It continued until 1941 and contains much valuable material on the natural history and antiquities of China, "handled", as Sowerby himself has expressed it, "in a more or less popular, but at the same time thoroughly authentic way".

He was also associated with the Shanghai Museum of the Royal Asiatic Society, becoming later honorary director of the Museum and president of the North China Branch of the Society from 1936 until 1940. He also helped to found the China Society of Science and Art, and the Numismatic Society of China, of which he was president. He was also president of the Naturalists' Club of Shanghai, founded in 1935, and to which he delivered the first presidential address, taking as his subject the "Progress of Biological Work in China".

He contributed many articles to scientific journals, newspapers, and to the *China Journal*. During 1943-49, the Heude Museum of Shanghai published several of his papers, the most considerable of which were probably his account of the birds of the Shanghai area, and a review of the mammals of the Japanese Islands, both of which were published in 1943.

Sowerby was interned by the Japanese in 1944, and when released, made his way *via* England to the United States, where he finally took up residence, in Washington, D.C. At the time of his death this genial and many-sided man was engaged upon a history of the Sowerby family, which he entitled "The Sowerby Saga". This was written in collaboration with his wife and a cousin, and the first three mimeographed parts appeared in 1952. In the first two parts of this work the origin and early and middle history of the Sowerby family are discussed, while the third part begins the story of Arthur de Carle's own life and activities down to 1912. It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to publish a further instalment of this vivid and interesting narrative. A. C. TOWNSEND

Mr. Talbot Peel

MR. TALBOT PEEL, whose death at the age of eighty-two occurred at Cambridge on September 17, had been a Fellow of Magdalene College for some forty-five years. Born on July 4, 1872, he was the son of Norris Peel, of Stonegarth, Huddersfield.

From Huddersfield College he proceeded to Magdalene College, where he was fifth Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos (1893) and placed in the first class of the Mechanical Sciences Tripos (1894). He then went to C. A. Parsons, Ltd., Newcastle upon