

him eponymous immortality. In 1822 he received recognition from the Royal College of Surgeons of England with the award of its Honorary Gold Medal. This is of greater interest when one learns that he was the first to receive the award, which had been instituted in 1802, and that it has only been bestowed fifteen times in the past hundred and twenty years. It is stated in the minutes (a copy of which was included in the College exhibition) that the award was made "in consideration of his useful labours for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge particularly expressed by his splendid Work on Organic Remains".

Parkinson died in 1824 and was buried in the graveyard of St. Leonard's Church, though the exact location of his grave is unknown. His fine collection of fossils was sold at public auction in 1827, some being acquired by Sedgwick for the museum in Cambridge, others passing to Oxford, Haslemere, and into private hands. Some now rest in the British Museum (Natural History). His name is preserved in geological as well as medical circles, for the ammonite *Parkinsonia parkinsoni* and the crinoid *Apiocrinus parkinsoni* are both well-known fossils from the Inferior Oolite. It is satisfactory to learn that medical historians are now busy rescuing Parkinson from undeserved obscurity².

¹ Challinor, J., *Ann. of Sci.*, 6, 46 (1950).

² *Lancet*, i, 761 (April 9, 1955).

OBITUARIES

Prof. F. Blakemore

THE sudden death on August 7 of Prof. Frederick Blakemore at the early age of forty-nine comes as a great shock to his friends and colleagues both within and without university circles. He qualified at the Veterinary School, University of Liverpool, in 1927, and then spent three years in general practice. In 1931 he moved to Cambridge as veterinary investigation officer for the eastern counties, where he remained until 1948. This was a period of intense activity demanding the closest collaboration with veterinary surgeons, agriculturalists and research workers, in a variety of fields. He would leave early in the morning to visit veterinary surgeons and farmers in the wide district which he covered, and his reputation as a sound adviser on all problems of animal health and disease was unrivalled. On his return he would plunge himself into his laboratory investigations, for which his enthusiasm was unbounded. The volume and high quality of his work during this period were an example to the younger men with whom he was associated. He had an uncanny knack of selecting the problems in the field which were worthy of intensive laboratory study. The impact of his scientific mind on a problem was shown by his unusually clear exposition of a subject. The extensive researches which he completed at Cambridge could not have been undertaken without the help of collaborators, many younger than himself, who owe much to his kind guidance and stimulating encouragement. His distinction in the research field was recognized by the award of the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup by the British Veterinary Association.

The high qualities which emerged during this period marked Blakemore as a man of sound judgment, and it was no surprise to his friends that he was appointed superintending investigation officer for England and Wales. This branch of the Ministry

of Agriculture had reached a critical stage in its development. The absorption of the county veterinary officers had been completed, but the service had not been moulded into a closely knit unit. To this task Blakemore brought his gifts of dogged persistence, persuasion and foresight, so that with the help of his colleagues he was able to build up an independent service complementary to the field officers of the Animal Health Division.

In 1948 he was appointed to the newly established chair of veterinary studies in the University of Bristol. He found in university circles, particularly in the person of the Vice-Chancellor, a keen interest in veterinary science and a desire to fashion a school on lines differing possibly from those of the older veterinary schools. Blakemore tackled with enthusiasm and sound common sense the problem of utilizing the resources of existing University departments, but at the same time developing an independent veterinary school with ramifications in Bristol and at the field station at Langford. The buildings which have been erected are a tribute to his sound planning; but, of themselves, they would never have created a flourishing school. The measure of his success was his ability to attract from the profession young men who were fired with his own ideals. The University of Liverpool recognized his outstanding merits by awarding him an honorary degree of doctor of veterinary science.

The high standing of the Bristol School is a collective victory; but it owes much to the knowledge which Blakemore brought of the practical side of his profession, as well as to his ability to take firm decisions and his clear-sighted judgment of men. Undoubtedly by his untiring efforts he spent himself to the limit. He will be sadly missed by his professional colleagues. The deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, who loyally supported him, and to his family.

R. E. GLOVER

Mr. E. T. Leeds

EDWARD THURLOW LEEDS, who died at his home, 88 Woodstock Road, Oxford, on August 17 at the age of seventy-eight, was successively assistant keeper and keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and was an archæologist of outstanding ability.

As assistant keeper of the Department of Antiquities in the Ashmolean during 1908-27, Leeds was responsible for much of the day-to-day work in the Department. His systematic mind and studious attention to detail, as well as his strong sense of custody, made him remarkably well fitted for such a post in a great and growing museum, and his flair for rapidly assimilating new knowledge soon gave him a mastery over all the material under his charge. From 1928 until 1945, when he retired, Leeds was keeper both of his Department and of the Ashmolean. Though he never neglected his Department and never failed to keep a firm grip on its working, administrative duties, which fell to him as keeper of the Museum, came to occupy more and more of his time, involving, as they did, the planning of no less than four major additions to the fabric (the Weldon wing, the Griffith Institute, the Drapers' wing and the Beaumont Street wing) as well as several internal reconstructions of fabric or fittings. His flair for attention to detail ensured that all this work took place with but the minimum interference with day-to-day duties and with practically no interruption of the Museum's service to the public.