

these topics were a stimulus to all those who were privileged to hear them.

Anxious to use every minute of his day, he turned the accumulated knowledge of his academic career to the problems of engineering geology, and from the age of sixty-one until his death worked during vacations as a consultant geologist on civil engineering projects in Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Ghana, the Sudan and on the Kariba Dam in Central Africa. His kind but rugged features were a true expression of his character. He possessed a physical toughness and endurance which were remarkable for a man of his age. Twenty miles a day on foot in the deserts of the Middle East or the bush of Africa left him undaunted; he invariably led the way. His only admission of physical discomfort was at the age of seventy, when he said that he felt somewhat sore after riding on horseback for two days through the Elburz Mountains of Iran.

Loyalty was the keynote of his personal life, and despite the failing health of his last two months he travelled to various parts of the country to fulfil lecture engagements regardless of the advice of his doctor and friends. It was his sense of loyalty supported by his great physical courage which carried him from his home at Crowborough to London to give his last lecture to his students at Northern Polytechnic ten days before he died.

D. J. SHEARMAN

Dr. August Gansser-Burckhardt

DR. AUGUST GANSSE-BURCKHARDT, who died on January 27 at his home in Basle, will be remembered by many for his achievements in fields on the borderlines of technology, and by his friends for his radiant personality. He was born in Milan in 1876. After passing the examination in chemistry at the Federal Technical College in Zurich, he obtained a doctorate at the University of Zurich in 1900. After one year's further study in London, Dr. Gansser began his life-long association with the family enterprise, the present S.A. Ledoga in Milan, manufacturers of vegetable tannins and natural dyes. It was at an opportune time, since Dr. Lepetit had just worked out his revolutionary process of making cold-water soluble quebracho extract by sulphitation. Gansser contributed substantially to the success of this venture. Since 1917, he had resided at the old home of his family, Basle, serving as the international co-ordinator for the family concern.

Along with his business activity, two major inquiries became gradually the all-absorbing interests in his life. His name will always be connected with the battle against the warble fly and with his contributions to the ancient history of leather. His fight for the eradication of the warble fly, which not only inflicts sufferings on cattle but also does a great deal of damage, resulting in much decreased value of the hides and impaired yields of milk and meat, made him well known throughout the world. His untiring efforts in this vital crusade were recognized by his Alma Mater by the award of the honorary degree of D.V.M. His second interest was archaeology, particularly the study and analysis of finds from excavations of Roman settlements on the Continent and particularly of sites in Italy. His broad humanistic knowledge and his scientific training became a most effective combination in this pioneering research. He handled the archaeological issues as well as the chemical analysis of the finds most competently.

Dr. Gansser was the founder of the Swiss Society of Leather Chemists, and he was instrumental in re-establishing international contacts after the two World Wars. At the time of the first one, he served as the president of the International Society of Leather Chemists.

Dr. Gansser was a man of wide culture, embodying the best traditions of his beloved Switzerland and Italy, and of kind and unassuming disposition. His sterling personality and his talents as a linguist and speaker—with five languages ready to his service—made him a well-known, and lately legendary, figure at international gatherings in his field of work for more than half a century.

K. H. GUSTAVSON

Mr. F. H. Edmunds

WITH the death of Francis Hereward Edmunds on April 19 at Westhumble, Surrey, British practical geology lost an exponent whose work had long been an encouragement to civil engineers and many other professional men seeking advice on geological problems. His friendly guidance will no less be missed by innumerable students, research workers, amateur geologists, naturalists and interested laymen in the south of England. Many will recall with pleasure the field excursions led by Edmunds and the lectures he was always pleased to give to promote popular understanding of the influence and application of geology. Most of all, however, he will be missed by his colleagues on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, where he served from 1922 until 1957 and was always happy to encourage the younger geologist.

Edmunds was proud to own himself a native of Wiltshire. He was born at Mere in 1893 and was educated at Gillingham Grammar School, in the neighbouring county of Dorset. After serving in France as a captain in the Tank Corps during the First World War, he went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he made many friends in the University. He obtained first-class honours in geology in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1922.

Throughout his career on the Geological Survey, Edmunds maintained his strong interest in geological mapping. Large areas on a number of published 1 in. to the mile maps, notably in Surrey, are the result of this work, and Edmunds was part-author of the explanatory memoirs on the Reigate, Guildford and Romford districts. Among other official publications, he was author of "British Regional Geology: The Wealden District" and part-author of "The Central England District" in the same series. Edmunds compiled a memoir on "The Wells and Springs of Sussex", and published papers in the *Journal of the Institution of Water Engineers* and elsewhere. During his period in charge of a small unit formed at the Geological Survey in 1936 on the request of the Inland Water Survey Committee, Edmunds organized the systematic collection and collation of well-records and undertook many advisory duties for Government departments and the Services, particularly during the Second World War. During 1945-57 Edmunds was district geologist for South-Eastern England.

Perhaps the strongest appeal of his book, "Geology and Ourselves", lies in its treatment of aspects of civil engineering and geology in everyday life. Edmunds also wrote and lectured with authority on the geology of scenery, of soils and of building materials. He was president of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies in 1949 and took an