Obituary

A. A. MONTAGUE, M.B.LOND., F.A.C.S.

Past President, Fiji Branch

All those who have, at any time during the past thirty years, lived in the Colony of Fiji will learn with deep regret of the death, on January 30th, of Dr. Aubrey Montague, formerly chief medical officer of the Colony. Aubrey Alfred Montague, who was 61 years of age, was born at St. Margaret's, Twickenham. He was educated at the City of London School, and then entered St. Thomas's Hospital. He qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1896, and took the London M.B. in 1898. In 1925 he was made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. After holding an appointment as house-surgeon at Wolverhampton General Hospital he joined the Colonial Medical Service, and was appointed a Government medical officer in Fiji in 1898. In 1912 he was made senior medical officer, a position which carried with it the positions of resident medical superintendent of the Colonial Hospital and superintendent of the public lunatic asylum. On several occasions he acted as chief medical officer, and in 1922 he was appointed to this post, and made chairman of the Central Board of Health. A few months later he was nominated a member of the Legislative Council. After his retirement in 1930 he resided in Oakham, where he died after a month's illness, borne with great patience and fortitude.

Dr. Montague was for many years the outstanding figure in the medical profession of Fiji. He was president of the Fiji Branch of the British Medical Association from 1922 to 1930. He was devoted to his profession, and was very popular with his patients and with his colleagues. Many of the present staff of native medical practitioners were trained by him during his time at the Colonial Hospital, and during his term of office as chief medical officer the Central Medical School was greatly enlarged and improved. Dr. Montague was a man of sterling worth, and his simple, unassuming manner endeared him to all who knew him. His name will long be remembered in the Colony to which he gave his life's work. He leaves a widow and one son, who is now in the Government Medical Service of Fiji.

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM HARDY

The Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge, writes:

It has been pointed out to me that amid the chorus of praise for the man and his work hardly anything has been said of Sir William Hardy's researches on leucocytes, and that I should repair this omission. I do so the more gladly because I was working under him at the time, and well remember the infectious enthusiasm with which those researches were pursued. He had already worked at the blood of invertebrates when Ehrlich's methods of staining the granular leucocytes appeared. He was quick to appreciate the value of this new aid to research, and, in conjunction with Kanthack, applied it first to working out the details of phagocytosis and then to the role of eosinophilia in bacterial infections and intestinal digestion. As I wrote in 1932, this work passed into undeserved oblivion, though the study of asthma, urticaria, and other allergic states has independently confirmed the accuracy of their views. But I remember that Hardy was rather nettled by Michael Foster's scepticism, though I believe that this scepticism caused him to re-examine the methods, and this led him to suspect that some of the histological appearances were artefacts, and thus, as Sir Gowland Hopkins has said, to his pioneer work on colloids. Kanthack's early death, at the age of 35, deprived pathology of a genius, but his partner was spared to enrich science in many ways, and not least by his magnetic power of inspiring a whole-hearted devotion to research in his pupils. Like his colleague Gaskell, he scattered ideas with a lavish hand for others to reap later, while he went on to fresh fields. To him life was always a great and exciting adventure.

W. LANGDON BROWN.

Medico-Legal

DUSTMAN'S DEATH: WIDOW'S APPEAL FAILS

The appeal by Mrs. Ada Edith Pattenden from a jury's verdict and judgement of Mr. Justice Horridge in the King's Bench Division (reported in the *British Medical Journal* of October 21st, 1933, p. 760) was dismissed by Lords Justices Scrutton and Maugham and Mr. Justice Talbot in the Court of Appeal on January 31st. In her action she claimed damages against Dr. Charles Beney in respect of the death of her husband, Henry Thomas Pattenden, alleged to have been caused by the exploding of a carbon dioxide gas cylinder.

Mr. J. D. Cassels, K.C. (for the widow), in the course of his argument, referred to Murray's Dictionary for a definition of the word "explosion." Mr. Cassels said his case never had been that the container burst. It was that there had been some failure of the article which caused the screw cap to come off with great violence, and so to injure the man holding it that he died.

Lord Justice Scrutton, in his judgement, said the Court could not interfere with the findings of Mr. Justice Horridge that the cylinder was not dangerous, and that there was no danger in handing it over to the dustman. With that finding the whole case for the plaintiff broke down. One had no reason to suppose that extraordinary treatment would be applied to cylinders handed over to dustmen in such circumstances. It rather looked as if the man had been trying to knock the cylinder cap off. "When you get to knocking off a cap, possibly with another cylinder, all sorts of things may happen that do not appear to be the natural result of handing these things over to be taken away by the dustmen." The appeal failed, and would be dismissed with costs. The other members of the Court concurred.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on January 18th the degree of B.M. was conferred on J. A. Boycott.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The tenth biennial Sydney Ringer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr. A. S. Parkes, F.R.S., in the lecture theatre of University College Hospital Medical School on Friday, February 23rd, at 5 p.m. His subject will be "The Co-ordination of the Reproductive Processes," and Professor Herbert R. Spencer will be in the chair. The lecture is open to all qualified practitioners and medical students.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

With reference to the announcement in the *Journal* of January 27th (p. 176) of the special course of post-graduate instruction, the time of commencement of the course dealing with pulmonary tuberculosis and infectious diseases should be 3.30 p.m., and not 6.30 p.m. as stated.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The Senate announces that Professor Andrew Hunter, M.A., M.B., B.Sc., has been elected dean of the faculty of medicine for the year 1934.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At the quarterly meeting of the council, held on January 29th, with the president, Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, in the chair, the following were elected to the Membership of the College:

Margaret Anderson, G. S. Brown, F. W. Buddee, Charlotte Douglas, G. Griffiths, Kathleen Harding, L. G. Higgins, Gladys Hill, H. Leaver, J. C. H. Leicester, Jocelyn Moore, H. K. Pacey, P. Peltz, J. M. Scott, A. J. Wrigley.

Dr. Lucien de Zilwa (Ceylon) was admitted a Foundation Fellow (*in absentia*) and the following were admitted to the Membership (*in absentia*):

A. B. Nash, D. J. Malan, G. M. White, B. H. Watson.