The Late Sir Dorabji Tata.

THE death of Sir Dorabji Tata has removed from the industrial life of India a great figure second only to his illustrious father, the late Mr. J. N. Tata. After setting the affairs of his firm on a sound footing, that great pioneer had conceived three great projects for the industrial and economic development of the country and set his whole heart on them during the last years of his life. But, while he had spent large sums of money in investigations relating to these schemes, he was not destined to initiate any one of them and it fell to Sir Dorabji to carry forward the work planned by his father. This he did with such energy and singleness of purpose that within ten years of his father's death, the wilderness of Sakchi had been transformed into a busy industrial city ; the rain waters of the western ghats had been harnessed and electric power transmitted to Bombay ; and the Indian Institute of Science had started on its ambitious work in Bangalore and already sent out its first batch of students. But Sir Dorabji was not satisfied with merely carrying out his father's plans. After carrying to completion these big schemes, he initiated a vigorous policy of expansion and, under his guidance, his firm launched forth on a long series of industrial enterprises including two more hydro-electric schemes, an industrial bank, an insurance company, oil and cement mills and an engineering construction company. Sir Dorabji was the chairman of most of these companies and fostered them with great care during the long years of economic depression that followed the end of the great war. He sometimes looked after the interests of these companies even at great personal sacrifice. During the dark days of the Tata Iron and Steel Company he nobly stood by its side and staked his own possessions and pledged his personal credit in support of the enterprise until Government came to its aid by granting bounties.

But he was more than a mere industrialist. He was a patron of learning and was deeply interested in the promotion of literary and scientific research which he endowed liberally. Since the foundation of the Indian Institute of Science he evinced a very keen interest in its progress and the welfare of its students. Under his guidance, the Tata Iron and Steel Company founded the Technological Institute at Jamshedpur for training Indians in the metallurgy of iron and steel. Both his private charities and public benefactions were mostly extended to deserving institutions and directed to the promotion of research. He endowed a Chair of Sanskrit in the Bhandarkar Institute at Poona and gave £25,000 to the University of Cambridge for the equipment of laboratories in the School of Engineering. He was also very keen on the establishment of a school of medical research in India and offered to endow it more than once, but the proposal did not materialise due to lack of support.

There were other sides to his life. Himself a cultivated man of great taste, he was a patron of fine arts and a great collector. His "Esplanade House" in Bombay contains valuable collection of art treasures and it was his wish that it should some day find a place in a public museum. He was also a patron of sports and athletics in which he himself excelled in his young days. He was very keen on seeing Indians win a name in the world of sport outside India and liberally supported Indian teams visiting other countries to take part in international games.

His fame chiefly rests on his great work in the field of industrial development during the past thirty years. But the man was greater than his work. He was a great gentleman, perfectly upright and universally respected for his high sense of honour and strict probity. He rigidly kept aloof from speculation and invariably guided his companions into the right path. He was above considerations of caste or creed. The last great act of his life was perhaps more characteristic of the man than all his industrial achievements. Shortly before his death he executed a trust for his entire property amounting to about three crores of rupees to be utilized for relieving human suffering

and promoting human welfare irrespective of caste or creed. He also set apart a sum of twenty-five lakhs for instituting research work on anæmia and allied malignant diseases, and for rewarding successful investigators in that direction.

F. N. MOWDAWALLA.

Reviews.

IN the series of the *Indian Zological Memoirs* a recent publication which forms the 4th volume of this series, deserves mention. The Memoir is on the common Apple-snail (*Pila*) and is written by Dr. Baini Prashad, Superintendent, Zoological Survey of India. A complete account of the shell and anatomy of the mollusc, illustrated with 43 figures in the text, is given in this work, and a short chapter at the end deals with the directions for practical work for the students using this Memoir. The series is proving of great use to elementary students of Zoology working on Indian animal types, and it is hoped that it will be possible to continue publishing further memoirs in this series. The present memoir, like the preceeding ones, is published by the Methodist Publishing House, Lucknow, and its price is Rs. 2.

B.N.C.

Principles of Soil Microbiology. By Selman A. Waksman. Second Edition, pp. xxviii+894 (London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 1931). Price, 52-6 net.

Prof. Waksman has rendered signal service to the cause of soil microbiology by the publication of a revised and amplified second edition of his already well-known 'Principles'.

The present publication marks a definite improvement on the first edition. Some of the older chapters have been abridged and re-written; others have been newly added, incorporating the more recent work on the decomposition of organic matter and on the relation between plant-growth and micro-organisms. The already extensive bibliography has been amplified to include all the important publcations of recent years. So complete is the information provided by the new edition that it deserves to be used as a volume of reference by those engaged in research.

While bearing ample testimony to the Herculean efforts of the author, the book betrays some of the limitations inevitable to a publication of its type. Owing to the vastness and the somewhat confused nature of the literature accumulating in different directions, many of the chapters read like threaded summaries from the card-index. The above together with the somewhat indifferent style, render the book rather unpalatable for the general reader who wishes to imbibe the principles of soil microbiology from its pages. The value of the bibliography has also been somewhat marred by the mistakes in citing some of the references.

The book has been well printed on good paper and, considering its size, is remarkably free from print mistakes. The price is unfortunately rather high and would not readily commend itself to the average purse.

V.S.

The Veterinary Bulletin, 1932, Volume 2, No. 2, pp. 65—130.

This Journal, which is a monthly from January 1932, aims at being an abstracting Journal dealing with current literature, and including references to all important British and foreign scientific work relating to veterinary research, administration, public health and education. The annual subscription is £2, and it is published by the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health, Weybridge, Surrey, England.

The February issue of the volume is of absorbing interest and contains extracts from or summaries of over 120 articles, arranged and classified under heading like the following:—*Diseases caused by Bacteria and Fungi*, *Diseases caused by Protozoan Parasites*, *Diseases caused by Filtrable Viruses*, *Diseases caused by Metazoan Parasites, etc.* One cannot but be struck by the care