

strains of farm crops evolved in India and is a sure means of overcoming the ravages of the serious blight disease of gram. Experience has convinced the authors that in the matter of control of diseases of staple crops grown on extensive areas, neither spraying nor clean-up methods,

however effective they may be, are of any avail in India as it is impossible to get farmers to carry them out to perfection. Ultimately the solution lies in the direction of finding out resistant types as is being done in Australia, America and other countries to control Flag Smut, Bunt, Wilt, etc.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Alfred Barton Rendle, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.L.S. (1865-1938).

DR. ALFRED BARTON RENDLE, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.L.S., who died at his home at Leatherhead, Surrey, on January 11th at the age of 72, was for many years Keeper of the Department of Botany at the British Museum of Natural History.

He was born in London on January 19th, 1865 and educated at St. Olave's Grammar School, Southwark, and St. John's College, Cambridge.

In 1888 he was appointed Assistant in the Botanical Department of the British Museum. In the same year he was elected a member of the Linnean Society of London. In 1894 he became Lecturer in Botany at the Birkbeck College where he taught for two or three evenings in the week until 1906. In 1906 he was appointed Keeper of the Department of Botany and his work and interests increased and broadened. He became connected with the Royal Horticultural Society, the Quekett Microscopical Club, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and after the International Botanical Congress in Vienna in 1905 he took an active part in deliberations concerned with revision of rules for Botanical Nomenclature. In 1909 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and later served as President of the Linnean Society. From 1929-1931 he served on the Council of the Royal Society. He became Professor of Botany to the Royal Horticultural Society and served on several of their scientific and administrative committees. This Society bestowed medals on him in 1917 and 1929 in recognition of his achievements and services.

Dr. Rendle wrote numerous papers on botanical subjects and a text-book,—the *Classification of Flowering Plants*. He was botanical editor of the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and from 1924 he edited the *Journal of Botany*. He prepared new editions of the *Bibliographical Index of British and Irish Botanists* and Bentham's *British Flora*. He also collaborated with William Fawcett (died

1926) in preparing a *Flora of Jamaica* on the sixth volume of which he was still working. He was keenly interested in the protection and preservation of the wild flowers of the British Isles and presided at meetings of Societies of Naturalists in different parts of England. He continued to be occupied with much of this work after his retirement from the post of Keeper in 1930.

He took part in many meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 1916 was President of the Botanical Section. With this Society he visited Australia, Canada and South Africa. A visit to Bermuda and Jamaica in 1933 stimulated his interest in the flora of these islands. He had never visited India, apart from a day or so in Ceylon, and as a representative of the British Association he was keenly anticipating taking part in the twenty-fifth (Silver Jubilee) session of the Indian Science Congress Association this January. This venture was tragically cut short by the illness which proved fatal. He contracted a chill on the boat on his way to India. This aggravated some latent trouble and after a week in hospital in Bombay he was advised to return immediately to England. He reached his home on January 8th and died peacefully there three days later.

The writer had the opportunity of working with Dr. Rendle at the British Museum (Natural History), London, a little before he left for India when he expressed much enthusiasm for his prospective visit to India. Dr. Rendle's keen interest in the writer's works and his valuable suggestions in the researches on Systematic Botany will be of considerable use. Dr. Rendle's courteous manners, his pleasant dealings and his willing co-operation in scientific works will be remembered by all who came in touch with him. We deplore his death and offer our most sincere sympathy for the bereaved family.

K. P. BISWAS.