

## OBITUARIES

Dr. (Miss) C. MINAKSHI, M.A., Ph.D.

WE regret to bring to the notice of our readers the sad and premature death of DR. (MISS) C. MINAKSHI, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Maharani's College, Mysore University, on the 3rd March 1940, at the early age of 33. Born in a Tamil Brahmin family of Conjeevaram, early in her age she took to study on Western lines, a course which, for a lady, the orthodox Brahminism of her time did not view with favour, but which paved the way for her distinction. After completing her undergraduate studies in the *Women's Christian College*, Madras, she prosecuted her post-Graduate study in History at the Madras Christian College, from which she was the first lady to take the M.A. Degree, which she took with distinction. In recognition of her merit, the University of Madras granted her a scholarship for advanced research in Indian History in 1931 for two years, which was extended for an additional term of a year in consideration of the importance and value of her researches. She selected as her subject for investigation the Administration and Social Life under the Pallavas, including Pallava Art, and the valuable work done by her in advancing the knowledge in the subject earned for her the Ph.D. Degree, a distinction she was the first lady to receive from the University of Madras. A large part of the results of her investigations was published by the University in the form of a book entitled *Administration and Social Life under the Pallavas*, a work which has been well received by the world of scholars and the lay public alike, as bearing a high mark of perfection and scholarship. The Madras University gave her further opportunity to conduct research in other important aspects of ancient South Indian History by granting her a Fellowship in 1937 for a year, an opportunity which she made excellent use of, in investigating into the history of Buddhism in South India. The archæological tours she conducted in connection with her new work, and the discoveries she made, attracted the attention of the Archæological Department of India, who, recognising her capacity and erudition, entrusted to her the task of preparing Archæological Memoirs on the Historical Sculptures in the

Vaikuntha Perumal temple and the Kailasa-natha temple, Kanchi. It is with extreme regret that we have to note that before the results of her varied researches could be published she has been snatched away from this world.

It is sad to contemplate the qualities of a person who is no more. In the death of Dr. Minakshi, who was known to be a musician of a high order, a scholar at once brilliant, painstaking and conscious, and a lively personality characterised by gentle and straightforward behaviour, South India has lost a distinguished and valuable savant whose life was full of promise.

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Professor R. S. TROUP, C.M.G., C.I.E.,  
D.Sc., M.A., F.R.S. (1875-1939)

FORESTERS the world over will mourn the demise of PROFESSOR R. S. TROUP who passed away at Oxford last October, a few months before he was due to retire from the Chair of Forestry. His contributions to the science of Forestry were many and varied and, he was one of the most powerful influences in moulding forestry policy, education, research and organisation within the British Empire.

Troup was educated at Aberdeen and at Coopers Hill where he carried away a number of coveted prizes. Like many another leading Empire forester, he spent his apprenticeship years, so to speak, in India serving in the I.F.S. from 1897 to 1917. After the first nine years in Burma (he had the distinction of preparing the first stock map for a Burma Working Plan), he was selected for Service at the *Forest Research Institute*, Dehra Dun, where his aptitude for sylvicultural research found ample scope for development. Later, he served as Timber Controller to the Government of India during the World War. And, in 1920 he was selected to succeed Sir William Schlich as Professor of Forestry at Oxford. In 1924, he became the Director of the *Imperial Forestry Institute*, Oxford. Professor Troup thus carried the very heavy burden of organising the teaching for the undergraduate and post-graduate forestry students at Oxford, of directing research and of training the probationers for the various Empire Forestry Services and in

every one of these departments he introduced innovations and left the mark of his dominant personality. He was frequently commissioned as an expert consultant on Empire forestry problems, his knowledge of which was probably unique. In the midst of so busy and strenuous a career, he found time to write several books on Forestry, his *magnum opus* being *The Sylviculture of Indian Trees*. He was a regular and promi-

nent member of the Empire Forestry Conferences. He was on the Governing Council of the *Empire Forestry Association* and also served on their Publication Committee.

In 1920, Troup was made a C.I.E. for his services in India. Six years later, a signal honour was conferred on him by his election as an F.R.S. in recognition of his contributions to the Science of Forestry. In 1934, he received the C.M.G.

## REVIEWS

**Research on Grassland, Forage Crops and the Conservation of Vegetation in the United States of America.** By Dr. R. O. Whyte. (Published by the Imperial Bureau of Pastures and Forage Crops, Aberystwyth, Great Britain) (Herbage Publication Series, Bulletin No. 26), 1939. Pp. 113. Price 5sh.

It is not very long since the problem of the improvement of grasslands received serious attention. Within the last two decades and a half the progress made has been astonishingly great as a result of the impetus received during the World War. The keen interest taken in this all-important problem of agriculture, since the war is evident in the establishment of an International Grassland Association. Four International Grassland Congresses have so far been held at different places in Europe. And this year in September, the fifth would have been held at Amsterdam, but for the new world catastrophe.

It is but natural, that such a wide problem of great economic importance should necessitate surveys of the work being done in different parts of the world, from time to time. In 1929, Dr. Woodman gave a brief survey of the recent pasture research in Great Britain (*Trop. Ag.*, 6, 12). In 1930, Dr. McConkey of Ontario Agricultural College was commissioned by the Empire Marketing Board to survey and report on "Recent Advances in Pasture Management". This appeared in the form of a valuable monograph (No. 43 of the E.M.B., 1931). In 1934, the Imperial Bureau of Plant Genetics issued a bulletin (No. 14) on "Grassland Research in Australia" and thus carried a stage further the work of survey. And now

comes from the same source another valuable bulletin (No. 26) on the recent work in Grassland and Botanical Survey in the U.S.A. Unlike the preceding monographs on this subject, the present one includes in it not only work on the improvement of grassland but also on the conservation of vegetation. It has therefore, an additional value of its own.

A glance at the contents of this bulletin will convince the reader of the magnitude of the work done by Dr. Whyte in providing us with a summary of the work and activities of no less than 46 state research stations spread over the country, and of agricultural and forest services. To present within a short space of hundred pages in a clear form so as to give the reader a true picture of these extensive activities is no easy work. Dr. Whyte has so ably prepared it that he deserves our congratulations.

Attention may be drawn here to some of the salient features of this compilation, especially (i) to the organization of the U.S. Regional Research Laboratory, State College, Pennsylvania which will probably be "one of the leading centres throughout the world for the study of the problems of humid temperate pastures"; (ii) to the work of Dr. Clements on climax, succession and conservation, which has resulted in the discovery of the fundamental laws concerning the growth of plants in relation to their various environmental factors. Thus it has been found that of the three factors, water, light and nutrients, the first is the most important qualitatively whereas the effect of the latter two is mostly quantitative; (iii) to the important section of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The problems covered range from