

paintings is "Bringing up the Horses" by James Bateman (No. 169), in which the dark horse is so good whereas the grey is a pantomime 'prop'. In the Sculpture Gallery, "Shire Horse" by Barbara Waller (No. 1237) is conventional, but still a Shire. "Gazelle" by Alfred Oakley (No. 1243) is also conventional, with horn-buds more closely resembling those of the red deer than those of a gazelle.

Since the entomologist rarely has anything of his own, he may care to look at "Butterfly Tree" by Constance Stallard (No. 867). Neither the butterflies nor the shrub will cause him any difficulty.

Among the pictures of birds are, "Chinese Geese" by Jessie Hodge (No. 566), "Solway Company" (No. 900), "Geese and Mallow" (No. 903), and "The Covey" (No. 904), these last by C. F. Tunnicliffe. All four are illustrative of the difficulty of dealing with pictures of 'scientific interest', for they are so close to Nature that the slightly conventional drawing and not quite accurate colouring are apt to be disturbing rather than sympathetic. That painters approve of them is shown by the fact that Mr. Tunnicliffe's drawings have been purchased out of the Stott Fund, whence one may conclude that the fault lies with the critic and not with the artist.

Another type of problem is afforded by the work of Sidney Lee. This artist's favourite colouring, which inevitably brings to mind the old jingle "Greenery yallery, Grosvenor Gallery", is admirably suited to work in the Pennines—"Over the Hills" (No. 138)—but it does not carry conviction elsewhere, even when, as in "Thun" (No. 109), it is used with caution. Algernon Newton seems to have a similar difficulty: his canal scenes are among the very best of their kind, but when he tries to render "A Yorkshire Landscape" (No. 488) or "September" (No. 483) with the same palette the results are deplorable.

Much good work is to be found in the room devoted to black and white, including a number of architectural subjects. The fact that duplicate prints are often obtainable, with a corresponding increase in the number of red stars on the frame, enables one to estimate the public taste. This year the very attractive "Jenny Wren" by Winifred Austen (No. 1055) is without doubt the most popular.

The Architectural Room is dominated by the immense "Plan of London Communications" which ought to have a special note to itself. Suffice it to say here that, by an ingenious planning of the roundabouts, pedestrian, slow and fast traffic are all kept apart and that, to quote its authors, "the leisurely and carefree conditions of the old market place have been restored, though developed and improved to suit modern life". From the market place one's thoughts turn naturally to the home, only to be disappointed. Two years ago I protested against some houses designed for erection in the Wirral. Since then they have been built and photographed, and their photograph hangs on the Academy wall (No. 1106), to prove that for depressing ugliness there is nothing to surpass them in the back streets of Manchester or Leeds. To the various authors of these and other plans (Nos. 1098, 1102, 1111, 1117) may be recommended the wise words of the Royal Academy Planning Committee, "It is important to avoid the mechanistic character of extreme modernism, with its soulless or even frightening aspect of the merely functional. A more human and friendly character is required for the surrounding scene of the people's life and business."

¹ NATURE, 149, 603 (1942).

OBITUARIES

Dr. C. B. Davenport

DR. C. B. DAVENPORT, who died on February 18 at the age of seventy-seven, was one of the pioneers of genetics in the United States. He was born at Stamford, Connecticut, in 1866, and graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic at the age of twenty. From then until 1899 he was associated, in various capacities, with the Zoology School at Harvard. In 1899 he moved to Chicago, only to return east in 1904 on his appointment as director of the Carnegie Institution Station at Cold Spring Harbor. It is in connexion with this Station that Davenport will be mainly remembered, for he remained there some thirty years until his retirement, and left it occupying the position of one of the leading centres of genetical research in the world.

An interest in natural variation developed early, and in 1899 we find Davenport publishing a small book, "Statistical Methods", where he outlined the biometrical approach to the collection and analysis of data on variation. With the rediscovery of Mendelism, however, fresh possibilities opened up and he began extensive investigations along these new lines using a variety of animals, especially poultry. The poultry experiments demonstrated Mendelian inheritance for many characters, though with complications in some cases. The results were published largely in the form of two extensive papers, dated 1906 and 1909, in the Carnegie Institution series. It is of interest to note that in the 1906 publication data are reported, from the F_2 of a cross between single-combed Black Minorca and white-crested Black Polish fowls, which supply evidence of linkage between the gene for crest and cerebral hernia on one hand and that for split and reduced comb on the other.

The application of genetics to man also attracted Davenport's attention, and in 1911 he published "Heredity in Relation to Eugenics". In this book is discussed the inheritance of a great variety of human traits from eye-colour, hæmophilia and cancer to insanity, criminality and pauperism. The hereditary aspect is brought out in all cases, though only in some of them do the data indicate a simple type of inheritance. The implications of these findings are discussed at some length in relation to migration (then a most active problem in the United States), sterilization, segregation of the unfit and so on. This interest in human heredity loomed even larger in Davenport's later work, when we find him writing on sex-linkage in man, the inheritance of twinning, the genetical factor in endemic goitre, crime in relation to heredity and other topics of the kind. His interest in the biometrical technique seems also to have at least partially revived in later years.

Davenport occupied a prominent position in contemporary American biology. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and served on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals, notably *Genetics* and the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*. Of the many societies and associations to which he belonged those concerned with eugenical questions form a large part, and his work in this field was appropriately recognized in 1932 when he was made president of the Third International Congress of Eugenics, held in New York.

K. MATHER.