

ful, buoyant, resilient, as if, like the beloved of the gods, he was predestined to die young. Yet the supreme test was nobly borne, and to many of his pupils and colleagues, who see in the death of this great, benignant physician, the loss of their best friend, the expressions of ancient belief will not seem unavailing: *Requiem æternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei.*

F. H. GARRISON

ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

A BOTANIC SCHOOL IN REGENT'S PARK

THE report of the committee appointed last April by Lord Ernle, the former president of the British Board of Agriculture, to consider what steps should be taken to improve the usefulness of the Royal Botanic Society in London, is now published and an abstract is given in the *London Times*. The members of the committee, all of whom sign the report, were: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir David Prain, F.R.S., director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (chairman); Sir W. H. Dunn; Surgeon-General Sir A. Keogh, Imperial College of Science and Technology; Sir Malcolm Morris; Major R. C. Carr; Mr. Morton Evans, joint secretary of the Office of Woods; Mr. H. J. Greenwood, L.C.C.; and Professor F. W. Keeble, F.R.S., Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and Royal Horticultural Society; with Mr. G. C. Gough, B.Sc., secretary.

The society was incorporated in 1839, and was granted a lease of 18 acres in Regent's Park until 1870. This lease was renewed by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in 1870, and in 1901 at an increased rental. The present lease terminates in 1932.

The committee have formed the opinion that the Royal Botanic Society could be made more useful both from the scientific and educational point of view by the establishment of: (1) A school of economic botany, at which a knowledge of the economic plants and their products including those of tropical regions, might be obtained; (2) an institute which might be made a center for research, more especially in plant physiology where the living

plant is essential; (3) a center for teaching in horticulture, the students of which could receive their necessary training in pure science at existing London colleges; (4) courses in school gardening, at times suitable for teachers in elementary, continuation, and other schools. In addition, the committee consider that the gardens might extend their present utility as a center from which colleges and botany schools could be supplied with material for teaching and research, and in which students could make use of the existing facilities for the study of systematic botany.

In an appendix the committee deal with the financial side of the scheme. They consider that the suggestions need not entail, in their initial stages, any very great expenditure. Buildings should be of a temporary nature and of not more than two stories, and might be erected near the present greenhouses. After giving details of the laboratories and rooms required, the committee suggest that the staff should consist of the following:

A director at a salary of £800 to £1,000, able to cooperate with the teachers of botany in London, and with a knowledge of economic problems or of vegetable physiology. An assistant director, salary £500 to £700, to be appointed after the director. His knowledge should supplement that of the director—*e. g.*, if the former be an economic botanist the latter should be a physiological botanist. An assistant, salary £250 to £400, to act as curator of the museum and librarian, with a general knowledge of plant diseases. At least one of the officers should have a practical knowledge of the tropics, tropical plants, and their products.

The committee estimate the total cost of the staff, with attendants, etc., at £3,000 to £3,500 per annum; the cost of the buildings, £4,000; and the cost of equipment, including books, plants, etc., £500.

THE ATTITUDE OF GERMAN PHYSICIANS TOWARDS INHUMAN ACTION

IT will be remembered that a protest signed by M. Calmette and four other members of scientific organizations who had remained at Lille during the occupation by the Germans,