

Dracopoli joined the Royal Geographical Society and studied surveying under Mr. E. A. Reeves, the map curator of the R.G.S. He soon became proficient and started off for the Pinacate Mountains in the Sonoran desert, in Mexico. Here he made a map of the surrounding country, while his brother secured three specimens of the rather rare Sonoran mountain sheep.

In 1912 October, very soon after his return from Mexico, Mr. Dracopoli left England and again went to British East Africa. He went with the intention of exploring and mapping the country between the Lorian Swamp and the Indian Ocean, and to find out what happened to the River Vaso Nyiro after it entered the swamp. As that part of Jubaland was unknown, the natives unfriendly and dangerous, he had very great difficulty in getting permission to carry out his plan. However, he managed to do so at last, and, starting from Kismayu, on the coast, he crossed Jubaland and reached the Lorian Swamp from the east, which no white man had yet done. He suffered from severe illness and hardships of all kinds, but in spite of all difficulties he made an excellent map of the country through which he travelled, fixed the course of the Vaso Nyiro, and brought back much valuable information.

He described his journey in the Journal of the R.G.S., and was asked to give a lecture before the Society. He also published a book, *Through Jubaland to the Lorian Swamp*.

In the World Atlas, published by *The Times* in 1922, Mr. Dracopoli's map has its place. He was given the Bronze Medal of the Back Bequest, and elected a member of the U.S.A. Geographical Society.

A last expedition was made to British East Africa in 1914, and on August 5 of that year he was married. He immediately offered his services to the country of his adoption, for although of Italian descent, he had become a naturalised British subject shortly before the outbreak of the war. His health had been seriously impaired by his exploration of Jubaland, and he was unfit for the fighting forces. He was given a post in the R.A.F., first in England and later in Egypt, where his exceptional gift of organisation had full scope. He was awarded the M.B.E. for military service.

In the spring of 1919 Mr. Dracopoli returned to England and bought a house at Bishop Stortford, and went into business in the city.

He died on 1923 January 7 of a cruel disease, the seeds of which were sown during his hard journey to the Lorian Swamp. He left two sons.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1919 June 13.

ARTHUR HENRY FISON was born at Hendon in 1857. He was the son of a Congregational minister. Immediately after taking his degree he took up lecturing on scientific subjects. For twenty years as Oxford University Extension lecturer he addressed large audiences in all parts of the country. In 1912 he was appointed Secretary to the Gilchrist Trust. In this connection he visited in the spring of each year various districts of Britain to organise local lecture arrangements, and in the autumn and winter to deliver lectures. He early became one of the

most successful lecturers of his day. Many who had the privilege of hearing him have borne witness to the pleasure he gave them. He had a wide knowledge of science and took great joy in the opportunity he had of passing on his knowledge to others. He seemed to have an instinct for getting into sympathy with his audience—often a very mixed one of professional and manual workers—and his enthusiasm always infected his hearers.

In 1906 he was appointed Lecturer in Physics to Guy's Hospital, and somewhat later to the London Hospital also. The lectures he had to give were for the most part elementary, but he kept in touch with all the latest developments of his subject. With the medical students he was as successful a teacher as he had been with the general public, and with them he was likewise a favourite. He had a commanding presence, a keen sense of humour, and an extraordinary power of lucid exposition. These characteristics, combined with a thorough knowledge of his subject, enabled him to interest the most difficult of audiences.

He occasionally gave lectures outside his ordinary courses, *e.g.* on relativity. In all things he was ever willing to give a helping hand. The manner of his death indicates the way in which he made himself useful to those with whom he came in contact. The staff of Guy's had subscribed money for a wireless installation for the illustration of a lecture by Dr. Fison, and also for the use of the hospital in other ways. While on the roof by himself fixing an aerial he fell through a skylight. He received severe injuries, including the fracture of a leg, and he died without regaining consciousness three days later, on 1923 February 4. A large gathering of students at the memorial service in the Chapel of Guy's testified to the high esteem in which he was held.

Dr. Fison's time was so largely taken up in lecturing that he had little time for independent research. The inspiration which he gave to others was, however, an important contribution to science. He was the author of two well-known books, *Recent Advances in Astronomy* (1898), and a *Text-Book of Practical Physics* (1911, rewritten 1922).

He married, in 1888, Alice, daughter of Prof. A. Williamson of University College, London, and left a son and two daughters.

He was elected a Fellow 1891 May 8.

J. J.

FRANK FLOWERS\* was born at Lewisham on 1874 January 28. He went to South Africa in 1888, where he developed a great affection for science, especially on the geographical side. He became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the South African Geographical Society, and the Geological Society of South Africa. For many years he was on the Council of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, and he was a contributor to its journal.

Previous to the war he was in the employment of the Johannesburg Municipality, but left it to take part in the German East Africa campaign as a Captain in the S.A. Pioneer Regiment, but like so many who went to German East Africa he contracted malaria and heart disease and ultimately died of these diseases on 1920 July 9, at Nakuru, in what is

\* Death announced in *M.N.*, 83, 4. Obituary Notice received in 1923.