

Arnold Theiler died on the 24th July, 1936.

With his death closes a chapter in the history of veterinary science.

When Theiler came to South Africa in 1891 very little was known about the veterinary problems peculiar to the sub-continent. Tropical veterinary science was a subject as yet unborn. During the years which followed, Theiler, more than any other, helped to establish this branch of science and to create order where formerly there had been chaos. And before he died the majority of the problems which he encountered or formulated had, in the main, been solved; on others much light had been shed; to the solution or elucidation of almost all of them Theiler had contributed.

His publications cover wellnigh every field of veterinary science. In the early years he investigated rinderpest, lungsickness, horse-sickness, nagana, equine piroplasmiasis, and several other epizootic diseases of South African stock.

Then, after the Anglo-Boer war, he settled down in his laboratory at Daspoort; and the series of *Annual Reports of the Government Veterinary Bacteriologist* (1903-1910) published during those years bear testimony to his incredible capacity for work, his versatility and thoroughness, and his complete mastery of all the major veterinary problems of South Africa.

Thereafter, with his headquarters in the more spacious and well-equipped laboratories at Onderstepoort, the majority of his publications appeared in the fourteen voluminous *Annual Reports of the Director of Veterinary Research* (1911-1928). Here, again, the wealth of information contained in his scientific articles fills us with wonder and humility.

Even after his retirement from office in 1927, and indeed until his death, he continued his studies with unabated enthusiasm and brilliance, adding monumental contributions to the solution of the problem presented by the hitherto obscure group of osteodystrophic diseases.

Theiler's publications will for ever stand as a monument to the memory of a great man of science. His passing has cast a gloom over the Institute which he founded; but his spirit lives in the hearts and minds of those who had the privilege to know him and to work with him, and it is their ambition to emulate his high example.

*The Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* is the continuation of the two series of *Annual Reports* which have been mentioned. May it follow in the paths trodden by Theiler and strive to uphold the lofty tradition which his labours have established.

P. J. DU TOIT.



Sir Arnold Theiler, K.C.M.G.