

PROF. VIVIAN B. LEWES.

WE much regret to see the announcement that Prof. Vivian B. Lewes died on October 23, of pneumonia, at Mold, Flintshire, where he was to deliver one of a series of Gilchrist Lectures on explosives.

Prof. Lewes was born in 1852. His education was undertaken by his uncle, George Henry Lewes, the well-known author of the "History of Philosophy" and other works. On leaving University College School at the age of sixteen, he became assistant to Dr. F. S. Barff, and in 1870 to Prof. A. W. Williamson at University College. Later he worked under Dr. C. Graham at the Birkbeck Institute, and was appointed assistant at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, in 1879, where he succeeded Dr. H. Debus as professor of chemistry in 1888, which post he resigned a year ago. He was appointed chief superintending gas examiner to the corporation of the City of London in 1892, and at the time of his death was chairman of the Chemical Section of the Munitions Inventions panel.

His chief scientific work was on the action of heat on hydrocarbons and the cause of luminosity of flames; papers on these subjects were published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society in 1893-1895. Lewes's acetylene theory of luminosity, whilst it has met with much criticism, has been accepted widely as the correct explanation of the main interactions giving rise to luminosity. He was also the author of papers on pentathionates.

When, in 1892, Willson, in Canada, first obtained calcium carbide on a commercial scale, a sample was forwarded to Lewes, who, at the Royal Society of Arts, in 1894, brought this substance under the notice of an English audience. Later he did much to establish the success of the new industry. No one, indeed, was more welcome or more certain of an appreciative audience at the Society of Arts, and there he delivered several series of Cantor and other courses of lectures, dealing with such subjects as coal gas, explosives, liquid fuel, etc.

As a lecturer under the Gilchrist Educational Trust he was most popular and widely known throughout the country. He was, indeed, the last of the original group of Gilchrist lecturers, the panel of which included many illustrious names.

Prof. Lewes did excellent pioneer work in connection with the University Extension lecture scheme and as a lecturer for the Technical Education Committee of the London County Council. This was the work largely of a past decade, but filled a most important place in our educational system. He laid claim justly to have instilled the desire for further chemical knowledge in numbers of young students, and contributed very greatly to the success of systematic chemistry courses in our numerous technical schools and institutions.

His connection with the Navy was naturally not without its influence on his researches, many of which formed the subject of communications

to the Institution of Naval Architects (of which he was a vice-president). The institution awarded him its first gold medal for a paper on "The Formation of Boiler Incrustations and Oily Deposits." Other important papers were on the corrosion of metals, anti-fouling compositions, and the spontaneous ignition of coal.

Prof. Lewes's principal technical field, however, was in connection with coal gas. He was always a welcome lecturer at the Institute of Gas Engineers and other similar societies, before the members of which he dealt in a lucid manner with current problems affecting this important industry. He was the author of several books, including "Acetylene," which is a standard work of reference, "Service Chemistry," now in its fourth edition, "Liquid and Gaseous Fuel," and "The Carbonisation of Coal."

Prof. Lewes's genial personality, his kindly and generous nature, endeared him to a very wide circle, both of personal and professional friends. Among the large number of naval officers with whom his duties brought him in contact no one was more popular or more respected.

NOTES.

WE much regret to announce the death, on October 23, from heart failure following influenza, at fifty-one years of age, of Dr. R. Assheton, F.R.S., University lecturer in animal embryology at Cambridge since 1911.

WE regret to announce that Sir Andrew Noble, Bart., K.C.B., F.R.S., to whose scientific work on artillery and explosives the marvellous developments of heavy weapons within the last fifty years are chiefly due, died on October 22, at eighty-four years of age.

MR. W. MARRIOTT has retired from the post of assistant secretary of the Royal Meteorological Society held by him for the last forty years, and has been succeeded by Mr. A. H. Brown, the chief clerk of the society.

MR. W. K. CARR, the owner of one of the best-equipped private laboratories in the United States, died recently at his home in Washington, at the age of fifty-five. On leaving the University of Virginia in 1878, he spent twelve years in the sale and manufacture of cotton at Norfolk, Va. Since then he had devoted most of his time to scientific research.

THE death is announced, in his sixty-fifth year, of Mr. C. F. Holder, of Pasadena, the writer of a large number of books on the natural history of southern California. He was educated at the Friends' School, Providence, R.I., and at the United States Naval Academy. For a few years he was an assistant at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Mr. Holder's special interests were in marine zoology.

THE first meeting of the new session of the Geological Society will be held on Wednesday next, November 3, at 5.30 p.m., when Dr. C. W. Andrews will exhibit photographs and give an account of the