## E. W. L. HOLT.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death in London on June 10, at the age of fifty-seven, of Mr. Ernest William Lyons Holt, Chief Inspector of Irish Fisheries. Educated at Eton, where he won the Biological Prize, he entered the Army through Sandhurst and joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, with whom he served in the Nile Campaign of 1884–5 and afterwards in the Burmah War 1886–7, during which his health broke down and he was invalided home.

Retiring from the Army, Holt took up the study of natural history, in which he had always been interested. His first zoological research was carried out at the St. Andrews Marine Laboratory, and resulted in a paper on the morphology of the brain of fishes, especially of the herring, which was communicated in 1890 to the Royal Society of London. In the same year he was appointed assistant-naturalist for the survey of fishing grounds on the west coast of Ireland, which was being carried out by the Royal Dublin Society. As the result of cruises carried out in 1890 and 1891 a valuable series of papers was published, the most important of which dealt with the eggs and larvæ of fishes, while in others the economic aspects of scientific fishery investigation were ably dealt with.

In 1892 Mr. Holt was appointed by the Marine Biological Association to take charge of a laboratory which was opened near Grimsby for the purpose of studying the fishery problems of the North Sea. Here for three years he successfully carried out investigations dealing with all aspects of fish life in their relation to commercial fisheries, paying special attention to the destruction of immature fish by trawling, a question which was thought at that time to be of the greatest practical importance. On leaving Grimsby, he spent some time in the south of France, where he resumed his studies on eggs and larval stages, publishing a finely illustrated memoir on this aspect of the natural history of Mediterranean fishes. Following this, three years were spent at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, where he not only continued and extended his work on fishes, but took up the study of several groups of invertebrates which are largely used as food by fishes.

In 1900 Mr. Holt returned to Ireland, where he became scientific adviser to the fisheries branch of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, succeeding the Rev. W. Spotswood Green as chief inspector of fisheries in 1914. Under his direction an important survey of the fishing grounds, especially to the west and south-west of Ireland, was organised and carried on for a number of years, the deep water of the Atlantic slope receiving a large share of attention. Mr. Holt gathered around him a brilliant staff of young naturalists, and an excellent series of reports was published. He continued to devote himself personally to the study of fishes, and included fresh-water fishes, especially the salmon, in his studies. His personal knowledge of fish life in all its aspects was probably greater than that of any other British naturalist, and at the same time he was a keen student of the literature of the subject. In his earlier years he had great facility as a draughtsman, and his papers were beautifully illustrated with his own drawings. He possessed an acute and critical intellect, a sound sense of proportion, and a quick eye for the things that really mattered in connexion with any question he took up. His work was greatly helped by a gift of rapid literary expression, accompanied by a quiet humour, which always made his writings interesting. His mind was essentially honest, he suffered from no illusions, and did his best to destroy what he thought were illusions in others.

E. J. A.

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WE much regret to announce the death, on June 26, at the age of seventy-three years, of Albert, Prince of Monaco, well known for his oceanographical research work.

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WE regret to see the announcement of the death, on June 22, of Sir Alexander M'Robert, at the age of sixty-eight years. After acting for a time as a lecturer in experimental physics and in chemistry, in Aberdeen, Sir Alexander went to India, where he passed the greater part of his life, closely associated with technical education. He was made a fellow of the University of Allahabad in the Faculty of Science, served on the committee of management of the Government Engineering College, Roorkee, and also as governor of the Agricultural College, Cawnpore. Sir Alexander had travelled extensively in many parts of the world, and received knighthood for his services in 1910, being created K.B.E. in 1919.

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## Current Topics and Events.

THE Council of the Zoological Society of London has approved a scheme for the establishment of an aquarium at the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park. The aquarium is to be built under the Mappin Terraces, but so installed as to be invisible from the front, and will not interfere with the panorama of the Terraces. It will consist of a crescentic gallery, 400 ft. long, lined with tanks on both sides. Those on the outer curve will have both daylight and electric illumination, while those on the inner curve will be lighted by electricity only, a method used at the Berlin Aquarium with complete success. The gallery will be divided into three parts—fresh water, marine, and tropical aquaria—with special ponds for seals, diving birds, and trout. The tanks are to be constructed with the bottoms, sides, and backs of slate, and the fronts of polished plate glass set in a framework of white marble. They will be provided with rock-work arranged to suit the needs of their inhabitants. The water will be kept constantly circulating, flowing into the tanks from high-level reservoirs and thence through a series of underground filter-beds, on the plan of those in use at the New York Aquarium, to low-level reservoirs, from which it will be pumped by electric pumps to the high-level reservoirs again. Special arrangements are to be installed for heating