

greatest. Fascinated by the study of trees, he brought out the greatest work on arboriculture that has been published since Loudon's monumental book, which appeared in 1838. He did much for the establishment and maintenance of the School of Forestry at the University of Cambridge, the fine building and wonderful collection of timbers in it owing much to his munificence.

Mr. Elwes was a man of splendid physique, endowed with great powers of observation and organisation; and he was a fine naturalist. His influence was always cast in favour of scientific methods. His many friends mourn the loss of a splendid and stimulating personality.

J. H. GURNEY.

THE death of Mr. John Henry Gurney will be greatly deplored by all who knew him, for he was of a singularly lovable nature, and thought no ill of any one. By this sad event, Norfolk loses her foremost naturalist—one who by work and patronage has for many years done much to advance the study of Nature in his native county. Mr. Gurney, who was seventy-five years of age, died at his residence, Keswick Hall, near Norwich, after a short illness, on November 9.

Mr. Gurney came of a family intimately associated for some generations with public affairs in Norfolk, which has been noted also for its philanthropy, and in some of its branches for a love of natural history. This devotion to the study of Nature was developed in a remarkable degree in John Henry Gurney and in his father. The latter was, in his day, the greatest authority on the birds of prey; and the son at an early age commenced to follow in his father's footsteps by devoting his attention to the study of birds, which eventually became one of the main interests of a useful life. Since the days of that remarkable man, Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682), Norfolk has been pre-eminent among English counties for its succession of distinguished naturalists interested in local faunal investigations. Many have shared in the advance of its ornithological knowledge, including such outstanding names as Alfred Newton, Stevenson, Southwell, and the Gurneys, father and son. The latter was indefatigable in his researches and made more than 100 literary contributions to the county avifauna, including 28 annual reports, each of which brought the knowledge of the subject up-to-date; of these, the last, dealing with 1921, appeared only a few months ago.

We are indebted to Mr. Gurney for several books, the chief of which was "The Gannet, a Bird with a History"—a valuable and exhaustive contribution which will always remain a classic on its subject. Another interesting volume was entitled "The Early Annals of Ornithology." This concerns largely the British aspect of the subject, and includes much

information of interest relating to birds culled from the le Strange household accounts for the years 1519-1578. In quest of bird-lore he visited Spain, Algeria, Switzerland, and Egypt, and the results of his observations appeared in the *Ibis* and the *Zoologist*, or, in the case of the last-named country, in book form under the title "The Rambles of a Naturalist."

Mr. Gurney was one of the original members of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, founded in 1869, and was its president in 1881-2, 1888-9, 1898-9, and in 1919-20; he was also chairman of the Norfolk Wild Birds Protection Committee, and a member of the committee of the Norwich Museum, to which institution he was a generous donor. He was a Fellow of the Linnaean and Zoological Societies, and a member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

W. E. C.

CANON EDMUND MCCLURE, whose death occurred on November 18, at the age of eighty-five years, was editorial secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge from 1875 to 1915, during which period he controlled the great mass of publications issued by the Society. He graduated in honours both at the old Queen's University, Belfast, and at Trinity College, Dublin. He held a curacy at Belfast for ten years, and was then collated to an honorary canonry at Bristol. Among his scientific and historical works he published a Star Atlas, adapted from the German of Klein; translations of Hommel's "Hebrew Tradition," and Kittel's "Babylonian Excavations"; he also had a share in a history of the society which he served so long, and in "British Place Names." Though he did little original work, his influence on scientific and historical literature was important.

It is announced in the *Chemiker Zeitung* of November 21 that Prof. Leo Tschugaeff died from typhus on September 26 last. Dr. Tschugaeff, who was fifty years of age, was professor of inorganic chemistry at Petrograd. He was well known for his researches, including the dimethylglyoxime reaction for nickel. The issue of November 16 reports the death on November 4 of Prof. Alfred Möller, since 1896 director of the Forestry Academy of Eberswalde, who was known for his work on mycology.

WE much regret to announce the death on November 30, at sixty-nine years of age, of Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, K.B.E., F.R.S., late professor of botany in the University of Edinburgh and Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh; also on the same day, at seventy-five years of age, of Sir Norman Moore, Bt., sometime Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and president of the Royal College of Physicians.

Current Topics and Events.

At the anniversary dinner of the Royal Society it is customary to include among the guests some public men of distinction in other fields than those with which scientific men are concerned. Among such guests this year, at the dinner held on November

30, were Mr. Justice Darling, who proposed the toast of "The Royal Society," and Mr. L. S. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, who responded to the toast of "The Guests." If the assembly had consisted of leading representatives of literature or art,