men. He presided over the International Association of Surgeons which met in London in 1921; he was president of the British Medical Association in 1922; in 1923 he was the ambassador chosen to represent this Association at the Australasian Medical Meeting in Melbourne. He returned from his visit to Australia full of health and vigour to resume the work of his chair and wards, when pneumonia, supervening on an attack of influenza, brought a very full and vigorous life to a sudden and lamented end. His love for his native island in the Firth of Clyde endured to the last; he found succour and refreshment on the farm he owned and maintained there. There was in him not only a reincarnation of the grandeur and imperiousness of a Highland chief; there was in his life's work something of the fire, zeal, and dourness of the Scottish Covenanter.

Dr. Nelson Annandale, C.I.E.

THE death of Dr. Nelson Annandale, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, in Calcutta on April 10, at the comparatively early age of forty-eight, is a severe loss to science and to Indian zoology in particular. The eldest son of Prof. Thomas Annandale, the famous Edinburgh clinician, he was educated at Rugby, Balliol, and Edinburgh, taking his B.A. at Balliol in 1899; he was awarded the D.Sc. from Edinburgh in 1905. Before joining the Indian Museum as Deputy Superintendent in 1904, he was Research Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, and had already made a reputation as an investigator into the anthropology and natural history of the Malay Peninsula. Between 1900 and 1905 he published numerous papers on the biology—he always took biology to include anthropology—of the Malay Peninsula and the islands off Scotland, including "The Faroes and Iceland: A Study in Island Life," and with H. C. Robinson and others, "Fasciculi Malayenses," the classical work on Malayan natural history.

Two years after joining the Indian Museum Dr. Annandale was elected Superintendent on the retirement of Lieut.-Col. A. W. Alcock, and it is noteworthy that in ten years he succeeded in convincing the Indian Government of the importance of zoology, and had the gratification of seeing his department raised to the rank of an Imperial Survey in 1916, with himself as its first Director. He was a prolific writer, and it is hoped that a bibliography of his numerous publications will appear in the Records of the Indian Museum, the journal founded and edited by him.

At one time or another Annandale had worked on most groups of zoology, especially herpetology, ichthyology, entomology, and malacology, and was known as an authority on the freshwater sponges, polyzoa, and cœlenterates, and on the barnacles. The diversity of his published work is largely the result of the fact that he always had one main problem in mind: the elucidation of the fresh- and brackish-water fauna of British India, a subject in which he has done for India—one may say the East—what Wood-Mason and Alcock did for the marine fauna. An enthusiastic collector, he was primarily an ecologist, his taxonomic work being done largely because it was necessary for the consideration of his biological studies, or because he felt that it was necessary to arrange the large collections under his care, a work in which he only had the assistance of three scientific officers.

In the last few years Annandale was especially interested in the biology of Asiatic lakes and in the adaptations of animals to their environment, and contemplated a book on convergence and the editing of a monograph of the River Ganges, in which it was proposed to deal with this ancient river from all points of view. Only recently the present writer compiled for him a bibliography of the work done on the fresh- and brackish-water fauna of India from 1912–22, which is practically only a partial indication of his own energy and versatility.

A widely read man, Dr. Annandale was acquainted with most branches of science and was deeply interested in art, and it is typical of him that in reply to a question as to what he was interested in he said: "Everything that is interesting." These qualities, his geniality, and his satirical humour made him a popular and conspicuous figure at the Asiatic Society of Bengal, on the council of which he had served since his arrival in India, while last year he served as its president. He had the true scientific spirit, never seeking honours, but it is gratifying to observe that he was awarded the C.I.E. in 1923, and only this year had been recommended by the council for election to the Royal Society.

Indian zoology as a whole has felt his stimulating influence, and much valuable work, such as that of Stephenson on Oligochætes, Brunetti on Diptera, Ḥora on hill-stream fishes and Batrachia, to mention only a few, owes its inception to him. Towards juniors he was particularly encouraging and indulgent, and I think there are many who, like myself, are deeply indebted to him for his constant encouragement and advice, and a generous interest which often took a practical form. Dr. Annandale never enjoyed good health in India, and one feels that he has paid with his life for his devotion to his subject. In him we have lost a man at the zenith of a brilliant career, and it is sad that he was not spared to see a satisfactory conclusion to the work he instituted and developed.

CEDRIC DOVER.

Prof. R. Hitchcock.

WE have received information of the death last November, at Baltimore, of Prof. Romyn Hitchcock, who did much to further the study of microscopy. Born in 1851, he studied science at the Cornell University and Columbia School of Mines, and his subsequent career was one of varied activities. He was assistant professor of chemistry, Lehigh University, 1872–74; professor of chemistry and toxicology, Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, 1876–77; judge of awards for the United States on several of the juries at the Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883; curator in the National Museum, Washington, 1883–86; and professor of English, Government School, Osaka, 1886–88. While at the last named he was in charge of the photographic work of the United States eclipse expedition, 1887. After his return from Japan, he spent a year in China as United States Commissioner in connexion

with the World's Columbian Exhibition. Prof. Hitchcock's literary activities covered a wide range, and dealt with automatic telegraphy, mining, photography, and Japanese archæology. In later years he published papers on botanical subjects in the Bulletin of the Torrey Club, and at the time of his death he was investigating the staining reactions of the living nucleus of the vegetable cell.

Prof. Hitchcock was the first editor of the *American Quarterly Microscopical Journal* and of the *American Monthly Microscopical Journal*, and did much to forward microscopy in all its branches. His death will be deeply regretted by numerous friends and correspondents in many parts of the world. R. T. H.

THE death has been announced of Canon Joseph Thomas Fowler, scholar and antiquary, at the age of eighty, on March 22, at Winterton, Lincolnshire. After receiving his education, partly at home, partly at Wakefield, Canon Fowler qualified for the medical profession, but later determined to enter the church. He became a member of the University of Durham, devoting himself particularly to the study of theology and Hebrew. After a period as a curate at Houghton-le-Springs, and as precentor at Hurst Pierpoint, he returned to Durham in 1870. He became Hebrew lecturer and held a number of other University appointments. Canon Fowler had inherited his antiquarian taste from his father and grandfather. After his election as F.S.A. in 1867, he became a frequent contributor to *Archæologia*. On his return to Durham, his activities in antiquarian research were much extended both in scope and in volume. His printed books published by the Surtees Society alone numbered eleven. He wrote constantly for *Notes and Queries*, and was the author of innumerable occasional articles in newspapers, magazines, and the proceedings of antiquarian societies. He left Durham in 1917, having received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from his University in 1894, and the gift of an honorary canonry of Durham Cathedral in 1897. His remaining years were occupied with the transcription of the volumes of Lincoln Chapter Acts and other documents of historical importance.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prince Roland Bonaparte, for many years president of the French Geographical Society and a free member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on April 14, aged sixty-five.

Prof. G. A. J. Cole, F.R.S., professor of geology at the Royal College of Science for Ireland and Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, on April 21, aged sixty-four.

Mr. H. Deane, a distinguished botanist who was president on two occasions of both the Royal and the Linnean Societies of New South Wales, and also a well-known engineer who was the first member of council for Australia of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on March 12, aged seventy-seven,

Surgeon-Colonel R. J. Reece, C.B., Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, and formerly president of the Epidemiological Society of London, on April 20, aged sixty-one.

Current Topics and Events.

ON Wednesday last, H.M. the King opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, thus inaugurating the largest and most comprehensive display of the resources and activities of the Empire which has ever been organised. The many striking features of the Exhibition have already been made familiar to most by the daily press in articles and illustrations; in addition to the gigantic Palaces of Industry and Engineering, there are the Government Pavilion housing the Home Country exhibits, the Pavilions erected by the various Colonies and Dominions Overseas, and lastly, though perhaps in some ways more important than any of the others in the significance of the business carried on within it, the Conference Building with its five halls. The deliberations which will go on within the walls of the Conference Building almost daily throughout the course of this summer can scarcely fail to be of prime importance for the promotion of progress and research. Of more immediate interest to readers of NATURE are the scientific exhibits in the Palace of Industry and the Government Pavilion. As we have stated in earlier issues, these are divided roughly into two groups, the physical and biological sciences being cared for by a committee of the Royal Society, while the pure chemistry exhibits have been arranged for by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers. In both cases, efforts have been made to avoid the "museum" type of exhibit, which, excellent though it may be and instructive to those who will ponder over the descriptions, is scarcely suited to the needs of perhaps the majority of those who will visit the Exhibition. Something capable of arresting attention is obviously necessary, and to this end demonstrations of apparatus and experiments have been arranged. The application of research to industry is, of course, shown by practically every exhibit at Wembley, but we may perhaps refer to that arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to demonstrate the importance of research in various branches of agriculture. Eight main groups of exhibits are shown which tell a continuous story. They deal with animal breeding and nutrition, veterinary science, soils, plant breeding, horticulture, plant pathology, agricultural machinery and agricultural economics. In each case the exhibits have been set up by the Research Institute specialising in the particular branch, and qualified guide lecturers explain the exhibits at stated intervals daily. Descriptions of all the scientific exhibits have been prepared and are available in the Exhibition. In future issues, we hope to deal with specific aspects presented by the Exhibition.

A CONFERENCE on Science and Labour in the Modern State is to be held at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31. The conference is being organised by a joint Committee consisting of representatives of the British Science