Father Cortie took a large share in the work of the Stonyhurst College Observatory during the directorship of Father Sidgreaves (1890–1919), and he became director in 1919 on the death of Father Sidgreaves. His astronomical work was in large measure connected with the relation between the phenomena of sunspots and terrestrial magnetism, and he contributed many papers to the Royal Astronomical Society and to the *Astrophysical Journal*; among them were a number relating to stellar spectra, a subject to which Father Sidgreaves had devoted much attention.

Father Cortie, carrying on a tradition started by Father Perry, took part in several expeditions to study the phenomena presented in total eclipses of the sun. He travelled to Vinaroz (Spain) in 1905, to Vavau, Tonga Islands, in 1911, and to Hernösand (Sweden) in 1914, to make observations of eclipses. He had but poor luck in the earlier expeditions, but in Sweden he observed the eclipse "in absolutely perfect weather conditions" and obtained not only valuable spectroscopic observations but also beautiful photographs of the corona, one of which is well reproduced in the Report of the Stonyhurst College Observatory for 1914.

In 1891 Father Cortie was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and for many years he served on the council of the Society. He was an active member of the British Astronomical Association, which he joined in 1894; for eleven years (1900–1910) he was director of the Solar Section of the Association, and in that capacity he was responsible for many reports on solar work. He was president of the Manchester Astronomical Society since 1911. In 1922 he was made a member of the International Astronomical Union's Committee on the Solar Atmosphere and attended the meeting of the Union at Rome in that year. After the meeting he received an honorary degree at Padua on the occasion of the seventh centenary of the foundation of the University. Quite recently he had been elected president of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. A. G. Butler, late senior assistant keeper of the Natural History Museum and distinguished as an entomologist and ornithologist, on May 28, aged eighty years.

Dr. John Mason Clarke, State geologist and palæontologist and director of the State Museum and Science Division of the Education Department, New York, a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, and foreign member of the Geological Society of London, sixty-eight years of age.

Prof. Giovanni Battista Grassi, Senatore del Regno, distinguished for his work on the transmission of malaria, on May 4, aged seventy-one years.

Prof. C. K. Wead, an examiner in the United States Patent Office and formerly professor of physics in the University of Michigan, who was known for his work on physical and musical acoustics, aged seventy-six years.

Current Topics and Events.

THE Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, for the investigation of problems of animal nutrition, has been fortunate in receiving funds from private sources. Two years ago Mr. W. A. Reid, of Aberdeen, endowed the Library and Statistical Department. The Institute has now received a gift of 10,000*l*. from Mr. Duthie Webster to support the work of an experimental stock farm. Mr. Webster, who is an Aberdeenshire farmer, is the nephew of the late Mr. William Duthie, of Collynie, who earned world-wide fame as a breeder of beef cattle. The farm is being established in accordance with recommendations made by Prof. T. B. Wood, Director of the Animal Nutrition Institute at Cambridge, and Dr. J. B. Orr, Director of the Rowett Research Institute, in a joint report which, at the request of the Agricultural Council, was drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. One of the sections of that report emphasised the desirability of having in Great Britain one or more experimental stock farms where the results of research work, which appeared of probable economic value, could be tested on a large scale, under practical conditions. In the report it was recommended that such a farm should be established in connexion with the Rowett Research Institute.

THE scheme, which is now being carried out at the Rowett Research Institute, makes provision for departments dealing with milk cows, beef cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, and it is intended that each department will have as its head a worker who, after having been trained in research in nutrition, will devote himself entirely to the study of practical problems connected with the nutrition of the kind of farm animals in his department. The establishment of this experimental stock farm in connexion with the Rowett Research Institute is an important development in the scheme of research in agriculture, promoted by the Development Commission some years ago. It will enable the results of work, the full significance of which can only be understood in scientific circles, to be presented in a form intelligible to those engaged in the industry of animal husbandry. The results of large scale-feeding experiments carried out under practical conditions, should be of interest not only to stock breeders but also to those engaged in research, whose experimental work has to be confined of necessity to tests with small laboratory animals.

THE recent Conference on the Standardisation of Plate Testing Methods, inaugurated by the Royal Photographic Society, appointed an influential committee to consider its work in detail and to draw up a report for submission to the coming Paris International Congress on Photography. The report of the Committee is published in full in the Society's Journal for June. The Committee recommends a standard illumination of 4-metre candles obtained by the use of a 15-20 c.p. standardised metal filament lamp used at a colour temperature of 2360° K., this having the same colour as the Eastman Kodak acetylene flame. For exposure it recommends a non-intermittent exposure mechanism and a time scale, intensity remaining constant. When uniformity in the developer is desirable, it recommends the pyro-soda formula of Hurter and