his adopted land to make collections for the University of Manitoba from the Ordovician beds of western Canada. He was about fifty years of age at the time of his death. He lived solely for his work, and had in the intervals of his collecting learnt a great deal about the anatomy of the creatures he sought for.

Brought up in a hard school, Cutler prided himself on going anywhere with a minimum of kit and the simplest of food, and it came as somewhat of a shock to him when he was equipped for the East African Expedition to find that his impedimenta contained tents, camp beds, mosquito nets and the like. He was impatient of such things, and inclined to look upon them as unnecessary luxuries which would need attention and therefore hinder his work. Maybe if he had more fully recognised the danger of the insidious Anopheles, he would have been spared to carry on his work.

Cutler's labours have been productive of fruitful results, and it is said that more than 600 bones have been collected, some of which have arrived, others being ready for despatch, and it will give some idea of the magnitude of the task when we learn that they will fill at least 120 cases. All these have been personally excavated and prepared for despatch by Mr. Cutler with the help of a few untutored natives—no mean task! They have, of course, not yet been worked out systematically, but it has been determined that bones of both armoured and probably carnivorous dinosaurs as well as herbivorous species are among the specimens. Such an enthusiastic worker will be hard to replace, but the work must go on, for what has been achieved only demonstrates the magnitude of the task and its importance. May this sad loss in the front line stimulate the public to support the expedition and enable it to continue with a staff much strengthened and supplied with every safeguard which the science of tropical hygiene can provide. C. W. H.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Hans Bunte, emeritus professor of the Technical Highschool in Karlsruhe, well known for his work in connexion with the German gas industry, on August 17, aged seventy-seven years.

Prof. Ernst Erdmann, director since 1922 of the Institute for Applied Chemistry at Halle, on August 19, at Rättvik, Sweden, aged sixty-eight years.

Prof. Georg Klien, director for more than forty years of the East Prussian Agricultural Institute, in Königsberg, on June 23, aged seventy-six years.

Prof. Otto Lummer, director of the Physical Institute of the University of Breslau, whose investigations dealt with interference phenomena and with the estimation of the sun's temperature, on July 7, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. Rudolf Martin, professor of anthropology in the University of Munich and an honorary fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute, on July 11, aged sixty-one years.

Dr. Mansfield Merriman, professor of civil engineering at Lehigh University from 1878 until 1907, who was a pioneer in the development of technical education in the United States and also was distinguished for his work on mechanics and strength of materials, on June 6, aged seventy-seven years.

Current Topics and Events.

SIR DANIEL HALL, in the course of his presidential address to the Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies at the Southampton Meeting of the British Association, appealed for their help in studying the antiquities of the land and of farming. He pointed out that the opportunities in local societies for the study of natural history and archæology are rapidly becoming smaller, and even in such fields as botany and zoology the development of science is rapidly decreasing the sphere of activity available to the non-professional man. He therefore suggested that such individuals can profitably turn their attention towards recovering, before it is too late, the detailed agricultural history of the country. The Corresponding Societies can give invaluable help in discovering the original settlement of the land, the manors, the system of cultivation adopted before enclosure, and the date and method of enclosure. The need for this work has been made all the more urgent by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act of 1924, which practically does away with the manor as a legal entity, and by the recent sales and breaking up of many of the great estates. Title deeds and estate records in the hands of manor stewards, family solicitors and the like, may therefore become distributed and increasingly difficult to trace. In this connexion a request from a Society to be allowed to examine these records will carry far more weight than one from a private person. In addition, much useful information could be obtained in some districts by a close study of vestigial physical traces of the old farming, and by the examination of field names referring, for example, to crops that have now disappeared. Again, the preservation for local museums of old farming implements would be a valuable activity of a local society. Apart from the intrinsic interest of this work, it would find a useful and highly desirable application in country schools. A series of parish maps showing the change in agricultural customs, distribution of land, vegetation, and so on, would provide excellent material for showing how, in response to physical and changing economic environments, the present farming system has slowly grown up from its simple beginning far back in the past.

AMONG the interesting exhibits shown in Section B (Chemistry) during the session devoted to the ignition of gases at the recent meeting of the British Association at Southampton were the photographs taken at Sheffield by Prof. Wheeler and Mr. O. Ellis on behalf of the Safety in Mines Research Board. By arranging a camera to open at regular short intervals, they have been able to photograph the successive positions occupied by flames produced by the firing of explosive mixtures of methane and air in closed spherical and cylindrical vessels. When the gas was fired by a spark in the centre of a glass sphere, the successive