

work in the group of the polychæts, so that in an expedition (May–August) to Fiume in the Adriatic, he worked his nets and searched the beach specially for those forms, to the study of which he applied modern methods. A better seaman than his distinguished countryman, Albert Kölliker (who was helpless in the surging English Channel), he was enabled to make full use of his opportunities in these waters. Ehlers began systematic work in the polychæts at a time when—by the labours of Grube, De Quatrefages, Johnston, W. Baird, Agassiz, and others, they were attracting attention everywhere—no less from their beautiful coloration than from their wonderful structure and life-histories; and he resolutely, from first to last, adhered to their elucidation both as regards European and more distant seas.

Ehlers' two early volumes "Die Borstenwürmer," each with about a dozen quarto plates, were by their careful systematic treatment sufficient to lay the foundation of a solid reputation, and they attracted much attention in Great Britain, so that when the results of the *Lightning* and *Porcupine* Expeditions were dealt with, Ehlers was assigned the polychæts dredged below 500 fathoms, and they formed a valuable contribution in the *Zeit. f. w. Zool.* for 1871. It would not be possible to deal minutely with his great labours—even in the polychæts—which added many new genera and species to the group, and brought to light new features in their structure and life-history; for his observations ranged from the fossil forms in the Solenhofen slate to the most recent deep-sea expeditions of his own country and of the Americans, and extended from the Atlantic to the shores of New Zealand, as well as ranging from pole to pole. Some of his memoirs formed quarto volumes of considerable size, and most were finely illustrated, sometimes in colour, by his skilled artist, O. Peters. He was *facile princeps* in the Department in his day, yet he bore himself with perfect modesty and was ever ready to help others. Nor were his labours confined to the polychæts. The gephyreans, tunicates, and Bryozoa on one hand, *Lepidosiren*, the Porbeagle shark, the *chorda dorsalis*, and the anatomy of Manis on the other hand, each became the subject of one or more memoirs—thus demonstrating the versatility of his vigorous mind and his indomitable powers of work.

Ehlers' connexion with the *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie*, the leading journal of zoology in his country, dates from 1875, when the veterans Von Siebold and Kölliker added him to the staff, and as the seniors passed away he became sole editor—until lately. His entrance into this work was signalled by an increase in the size of the journal, and indeed it occasionally doubled its bulk both as regards memoirs and plates. Yet he did not desert the Göttingen publications, in which many of his contributions appeared afterwards. The name of Ehlers is honoured wherever the science of zoology is known, and he truly wore the sword out instead of letting it rust out, for he held office until he had almost reached his ninety-first year, when release from his labours reached him. His unselfish devotion to zoology moved his friends, at home and abroad, in 1905 to prepare a *Festschrift* in his honour, and the memoirs were published in the *Zeitschrift f. w. Zool.*, and are

a sufficient testimony to his fame. Moreover, a second *Festschrift* was in process of arrangement in 1914, but the outbreak of the War put an end to the project. Ehlers thus forms a conspicuous example to all the younger zoologists for his unswerving devotion to his early subjects, his wide and accurate knowledge, his skill with his pencil, and for his arduous and unceasing academic labours. Of him Göttingen may well be proud.

W. C. M'INTOSH.

DR. C. V. PIPER.

By the death, on February 11, of Dr. Charles Vancouver Piper, the United States Department of Agriculture loses a worker of wide reputation and long service. At the time of his death he was in charge of the Office of Forage Crop Investigations, and through his efforts many plants and grasses of much value to American agriculture have been introduced and established in the United States. He was best known to the general public through his work in developing the creeping bent grass for use on golf greens. In 1919 he discovered a particularly useful variety, propagated it by vegetative means, and distributed it throughout the northern section of the United States, where it is now found growing on thousands of golf greens. Dr. Piper was keenly interested in the game, and utilised his knowledge to the full to improve conditions for players everywhere.

Dr. Piper's contributions to the forage and grass industry of practical agriculture were numerous, perhaps the best known being the introduction and establishment of the Sudan grass (from Africa), which is now a very valuable hay and pasture grass in the States. More than one hundred books and papers on agriculture and allied subjects stand to his credit, and he was consulting agricultural editor for the McGraw-Hill Book Company. In his search for new forage plants he travelled widely, spending much time in Japan, China, India, Java, Egypt, the Philippines and Alaska.

Dr. Piper was born at Victoria, B.C., in 1867, took his M.S. degree at Washington in 1892, and remained there as professor of botany until 1903, when he received his appointment to the Agricultural Department at Washington, D.C. He was associated with many societies, serving in 1908-9 as president of the Botanical Society of Washington, and in 1913-14 of the American Society of Agronomy.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. William Tufts Brigham, director-emeritus of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, known for his work on Hawaiian customs, on January 29, aged eighty-four years.

Sir Bradford Leslie, known for his work on bridge design and construction, who studied his profession under Brunel, on March 21, aged ninety-four years.

Dr. William E. Safford, economic botanist for the United States Department of Agriculture, who devoted himself to the study of the plants and plant products of the American aborigines and of the early history of cultivated plants generally, on January 10, aged sixty-six years.

Prof. Sutherland Simpson, since 1908 professor of physiology in Cornell University, Ithaca, and formerly lecturer in experimental physiology in the University of Edinburgh, the author of numerous papers on the nervous system, body temperature, and secretory glands, aged sixty-three years.