

his efforts in the cause of local scientific education received recognition by the award to him of the Kingsley Medal by the Chester Literary and Philo-sophical Society.

Plummer took an early interest in seismology, and was for many years a member of the Seismological Committee of the British Association. Before the beginning of his final illness, he co-operated actively in the foundation of the Tidal Institute, the work of which is already proving to be of importance.

Mr. Plummer leaves a family of two sons and a daughter: the elder son, Prof. H. C. Plummer, was Royal Astronomer of Ireland in the years 1912-21, and is now professor of mathematics in the Military College of Science, Woolwich.

DR. EDGAR WILLIAM WILLETT, who died at Hartfield, Sussex, on April 12, aged seventy-two years, was a son of the late Mr. Henry Willett of Brighton, and inherited his father's interest in geology. In 1881 he explored the mammal deposit in the Purbeck Beds at Swanage, and read a paper on a jaw of *Triconodon* to the Geological Society. In 1901 he investigated the occurrence of glossy flint implements in a gravel pit in Savernake Park, and read a paper on the subject to the Royal Anthropological Institute.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Cyrus C. Adams, of New York, geographer and formerly associate editor of the *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, aged seventy-eight years.

Dr. Bird T. Baldwin, head of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station at the University of Iowa, and a past secretary and chairman of Section Q of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on May 12, aged fifty-three years.

Prof. Gaetano Lanza, Cavaliere dell' Ordine dei Santi Maurizio e Lazzaro, emeritus professor of theoretical and applied mechanics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on Mar. 21, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. R. Lepetit, president of the Italian Society of Chemical Industry, known for his work on the synthesis of indigo and for the production of 'Italian green,' on Mar. 27, aged sixty-two years.

Prof. I. P. Roberts, formerly professor of agriculture, dean of the New York State College of Agriculture, on Mar. 17, aged ninety-four years.

Dr. Joseph Nelson Rose, associate curator of botany in the U.S. National Museum, an authority on the Cactaceae and other Mexican and South American plants, on May 4, aged sixty-six years.

Prof. Arthur Schönfliess, of the University of Frankfurt on Main, the well-known mathematician, author with Prof. Nernst of "Einführung in die mathematische Behandlung der Naturwissenschaften," which has run into ten editions, on May 27, at the age of seventy-five years.

News and Views.

THE physical inheritance of man having been placed in proper relation to its animal ancestry, Sir Arthur Keith turns to man's mental attributes, and at the University of Manchester on May 9 delivered what may be regarded as a supplement to his British Association address at Leeds. The spiritual characteristics of mankind have always proved the most obstinate to be enrolled under the banner of evolution, and Sir Arthur's frank statement of his conclusions has given rise to much newspaper controversy, some of which scarcely did justice to his views. The Manchester lecture appears under the title "Implications of Darwinism" in the *English Review* for June; but the title might as well have been "The Uniqueness of Man's Spiritual Attributes," for care is taken to show that the crude mental inheritance derived from his animal ancestry is overlaid in man by a more perfected control. It comes to this: that while man's brain, and with it man's mentality, are grounded upon those of his ancestral apes, the balance has been altered by the expansion and finer development of the brain matter, so that what are looked upon as higher centres predominate over the lower or crude animal centres.

SOME of the specific points made by Sir Arthur Keith may be instanced. He rejects duality in the brain: there is here no compound of substance and spirit, but a living organ and its essential manifestation—"mind, spirit, soul are the manifestations of a living brain just as flame is the manifest spirit of a burning candle." Human nature is in its basis animal. There is the same sort of drive induced by

the primary instincts of hunger or sex, and the more primitive the race of mankind the more bestial is the response to the urge. But repression is the normal means of human progress, and the higher the stage of civilisation the more the elemental instincts are held in control by the development of the higher powers of reason. Yet a complete rationalising of mankind is impossible and undesirable, since a complete subordination of the primary instincts would mean race suicide. "Our aim should be not to eradicate the animal propensities within us, but to bend them so as to serve best the interests of both individual and country."

ALTHOUGH the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem was established in 1919 only, it has already done much valuable work in archaeological exploration. The discovery of the Galilee skull is alone of sufficient importance to justify its existence. It has, however, done much more. As the headquarters of British students and in some sort a centre of British society in Palestine, it has both served science well and also enhanced British prestige among the people in a way that is difficult for those unacquainted with conditions in the Near East to appreciate. Under the Directorship of Prof. John Garstang, the School was also responsible for the functions of a department of antiquities, but the double duties were made distinct in 1926, when a separate organisation for the record and preservation of archaeological remains was set up. In the following year the Government grant of £500, upon which the School had been largely dependent, was discontinued. Now, therefore, the School is entirely dependent upon