Recently, however, an ore was found, accompanied by slag, at Jabal al Ma'adan in Wadi Ahin, inland from Sohar, in the State of Oman, which proved to contain nickel. It was found only in the form of thin veins, much mixed with other minerals. The percentage of copper was small, but that of nickel relatively to the copper was very high. The figures were copper 1·0, nickel 0·19. The slags contained 1·50 and 4·30 per cent of copper and no nickel, which is in accordance with probable smelting practice.

The Committee has thus achieved a tangible and encouraging result, though it would be going beyond the evidence at the moment to suggest that it is conclusive. Mr. H. Peake, however, in a communication presented to the recent Orientalist Congress at Oxford, suggested that Jabal al Ma'adan might be the site of Magan, referred to by Sargon in his geographical tablet and mentioned in the time of Judea in the lists as one of the places from which came ships and copper.

On the other hand, Prof. Desch mentions an ancient bronze object from the Transvaal which contains so much as 3 per cent of nickel. He thinks that as the copper ore, which is malachite in a quartz gangue, is accompanied by a green nickel arsenate, anabergite, this might have been mistaken for malachite, thus explaining the presence of nickel. This is suggestive, for it is known that farther to the north in the Belgian area nickel blooms have been used. Although vast quantities of metal have been taken from the Transvaal and Katanga area, the age of these workings is quite unknown. It certainly should be investigated. Another research committee of the British Association has this question under consideration, but is unable to continue its investigations owing to lack of adequate funds.

Obituary.

PROF. R. A. BERRY.

THE sudden death of Reginald Arthur Berry, which took place in Glasgow on Oct. 12, at the early age of fifty-two years, deprives Scotland of one of its most active workers in agricultural science. Berry was educated at Oundle and at Cambridge. After acting as assistant for several years to the late Prof. Liveing, he transferred in 1900 to the School of Agriculture at Cambridge. There he worked with Prof. T. B. Wood for the next five years, and, in collaboration with him, published some valuable papers ; in particular their investigation into the composition of root crops has always been regarded as a fundamental piece of work.

In 1905, Berry was appointed professor of agricultural chemistry in the West of Scotland College of Agriculture at Glasgow. Here his teaching duties were heavy, and his laboratory accommodation meagre and inconvenient ; notwithstanding these difficulties he steadily carried on his work, and the large number of papers published during the last twenty-three years bears evidence to his zeal and to his wide interest in the various divisions of agricultural chemistry. An investigation into the composition of oats was followed by a large number of papers dealing with feeding problems and with various aspects of dairying ; he did much work on the utilisation of the by-products of the dairy industry, and, at the last meeting of the British Association in Glasgow, presented, in conjunction with Mr. A. Macneilage, the results of an inquiry of much economic importance into the utilisation of surplus milk. Berry was also much interested and took a share in the development of the modern methods of soil surveying which have been adopted in Great Britain ; he was an active member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

Berry married the elder daughter of the late Mr. James Smith, of Doonfoot, Ayrshire, and is survived by his widow and two daughters. He had a wide circle of friends, by whom his memory will ever be held in affectionate remembrance.

MR. S. R. PIKE.

THE death occurred on Nov. 22, in hospital at Pasadena, California, of Sydney Royston Pike. Mr. Pike was born in 1903, and showed a marked bent towards astronomy from early years. He entered Balliol from Bedford School in 1920 with a scholarship awarded for distinction in that subject. Graduating with a first class in physics in 1924, and following this up by a year's research in Oxford, he was appointed assistant lecturer in physics in the University of Leeds in 1925, and soon showed his originality by a series of papers on astrophysical subjects. During the present year, having been awarded a research fellowship by the International Education Board, and granted a year's leave of absence by the University, he proceeded to Mt. Wilson in September, and had scarcely begun work when symptoms of meningitis, following a severe chill, necessitated his removal to hospital.

In letters Mr. Pike had remarked on the universal kindness with which he had been received by his new friends in California. To all of them his relatives and English colleagues wish to express their deepest gratitude. They also wish to record their high appreciation of the generous action of the American authorities under whose auspices Mr. Pike was working, in according him a last resting-place near the great observatory in which his labours were so prematurely cut short.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, emeritus professor of geology in the University of Chicago, the Nestor of American geologists, who was a foreign member of the Geological Society of London, on Nov. 15, aged eighty-five years.

Dr. V. E. Emmel, professor of anatomy in the college of medicine of the University of Illinois, on Nov. 8, aged fifty years.

Prof. Franz Stuhlmann, formerly general secretary of the Hamburg Colonial Institute and one of the pioneers in the opening-up of German East Africa, who accompanied Emin Pasha in his last expedition in 1894, aged sixty-five years.