

assisted Dr. H. O. Forbes to publish catalogues of the bird collections in that Museum. In 1901 he accompanied Dr. N. Annandale, who was then Director of the Indian Zoological Survey, to the Malay Peninsula, on an expedition attached to the Skeat Expedition which had been organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and by the University of Liverpool. The results of this expedition appeared in several volumes between 1903 and 1907, that on birds being written by Mr. Ogilvy Grant in 1905—but the work, which was entitled “*Fasciculi Malayenses*”, was unfortunately never completed.

In 1903 Mr. Robinson was appointed curator of the Federated Malay States Museums, and shortly afterwards, on the resignation of the Director, Mr. Wray, he was promoted to that appointment, which he held until his resignation in 1926. From this time forward Mr. Robinson—latterly often in conjunction with Mr. Boden Kloss—wrote from time to time many articles on the various branches of zoology, though principally on the Vertebrata. In addition to this, Mr. Robinson organised and directed both the Federated Malay States Bureau of Fisheries and also the Meteorological Service. For the last two years of his service Mr. Robinson was in charge of a section of the Malayan Pavilion at the Wembley Exhibition. Throughout his directorship of the Federated Malay States Museums, Mr. Robinson wrote principally in the *Journal* of those Museums, the *Journal* of the Asiatic Society, and, to a less extent, in the *Ibis*.

Mr. Robinson was not only a scientific ornithologist with a wide knowledge of the literature of birds, but was also himself a keen and indefatigable field naturalist with an intimate knowledge of the birds in a state of Nature, a fact which made his writings of interest as well as of value. Among the more important of his articles may be mentioned the various catalogues of the birds of Siam, different States of the Malay Peninsula and the larger islands, which appeared from time to time in the journals already mentioned, as well as in the *Journal* of the Natural History Society of Siam. His most important work, however, was the one on which he was engaged at the time

of his death, which he was producing for the Government of the Malay States. It was intended that this work on the birds of that country should be divided into five parts: (1) Commoner Birds; (2) Birds of the Higher Hill Stations; (3) Sporting and Shore Birds; (4) Birds of the Low Country; and (5) Remaining Birds. Of these parts, only the first two have appeared, though we understand that part 3 was also practically finished before Mr. Robinson's death. The two volumes in print prove the great loss that ornithology has sustained in the death of Mr. Robinson.

It can scarcely be said of Mr. Robinson that he was widely popular, for he was very reserved; at the same time, the better he was known the more he was liked. In manner most unassuming, he was yet always ready to assist his brother ornithologists to the utmost of his capacity, and to these his death means the loss of a great personal friend and a clever scientific worker.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Etienne Bieler, deputy-director of the Imperial Geophysical Experimental Survey, at Geraldton, West Australia, on July 25, aged thirty-four years.

Dr. W. G. Duffield, Director of the Australian Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mount Stromlo, and formerly professor of physics at University College, Reading.

Dr. T. Blackwood Murray, formerly chairman and managing director of the Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., and a past president of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, on June 11, aged fifty-eight years.

The Very Rev. Dr. David Paul, a past president of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and of the British Mycological Society, on July 12, aged eighty-three years.

Dr. R. B. Riggs, Scoville professor emeritus of chemistry at Trinity College, Conn., and a member of the college faculty for thirty-three years, on May 11, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. E. M. Terry, associate professor of physics in the University of Wisconsin, known for his work on the effect of temperature on the magnetic properties of iron, cobalt, and nickel, and also on radio telephony, on May 1, aged fifty years.

### News and Views.

THE formation of a committee for the excavation of Caistor-by-Norwich, which has followed on the publication of an air photograph revealing the street plan of the Roman town, affords Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler an opportunity for some pertinent comments in the June number of *Antiquity* on the question of the exploration of Roman Britain. In the last few years the excavation of Roman sites in Britain has been extended remarkably. It has attracted a great deal of public attention and the discovery of Romano-British antiquities has become ‘news’ in the public press. As a consequence, appeals for funds are made more widely known and meet with a more liberal response. Caistor is only one of a number of recent cases in point. At present it is true this applies in some degree to all archaeological investigation; but

in Romano-British archæology, as Dr. Wheeler points out, much of this effort is wasted and misdirected. He suggests that Romano-British research should be more systematically organised. It is expected that the complete excavation of Caistor will cost at least £15,000, and this exclusive of publication, without which research is of little value for the general advancement of knowledge.

INTERESTING as it may be expected that the results of the exploration of Caistor will prove, there are other sites, especially those in urban or developing areas, which may be regarded as more urgently in need of excavation—such sites, for example, as Caerleon, Colchester, and St. Albans, where changing conditions may in a short time preclude all digging.