While his main interests lay in the direction of organic chemistry, the extraordinary breadth of Ryan's knowledge of all branches of chemistry always aroused the admiration of his colleagues, both in Great Britain and Ireland. To Irish men of science his great achievement was that he created in Dublin, from small beginnings and almost unaided, an important school of research in chemistry. The range of his influence in this respect, already widely felt, will be more fully appreciated in the future.

In public and private life Hugh Ryan was a most lovable and sterling character, with a rare simplicity and charity of outlook. His untimely death will cause genuine grief among the many students of science, engineering, and medicine who received instruction from him. J. ALGAR.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. T. V. Barker, secretary to the University Chest in the University of Oxford, author of numerous books and papers on mineralogy and chemical crystallography, on April 15, aged fifty years.

Prof. E. P. Culverwell, senior fellow and professor of education in Trinity College, Dublin, who was known for his work on the calculus of variations and mathematical and physical theories of the Ice Age, on April 17, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. J. Lorrain Smith, F.R.S., professor of pathology and dean of the faculty of medicine in the University of Edinburgh, on April 18.

The Ven. J. M. Wilson, sometime canon of Worcester and headmaster of Clifton College, who was a member of a British Association committee on science in schools so long ago as 1866, on April 15, aged ninety-four years.

News and Views.

THE preliminary programme has now been issued of the centenary meeting of the British Association, to be held in London on Sept. 23–30, under the presidency of the Right Hon. J. C. Smuts. So far, of course, only the barest outline of the proceedings is possible, but it is clear already that the meeting is going to be worthy of the occasion. The reception room and offices for the meeting will be in the University of London (Imperial Institute Road, South Kensington). General Smuts will assume office at a meeting in the afternoon of Sept. 23 in the Albert Hall, where the Faraday Centenary Exhibition is being held, and will deliver his presidential address on the same evening at the Central Hall, Westminster. Special tickets will be required for General Smuts's address; arrangements are being made for relaying it to other halls if necessary. Evening discourses will be given by Prof. W. A. Bone (photographic analysis of explosion flames), Sir P. Chalmers Mitchell, Sir Arthur Keith, Sir Oliver Lodge (a retrospect of wireless communication), Sir William Hardy, and Sir James Jeans. The Huxley Memorial Lecture of the Royal Anthropological Institute will be delivered on Sept. 29 by Dr. G. Thilenius, and members of the Association are invited. Various public lectures will be given in certain polytechnic institutions in London. It is expected that receptions will be given on Sept. 24 by the Royal Society, in connexion with the Faraday celebrations, and on Sept. 25 by H.M. Government. Exhibits and demonstrations are again being arranged by the British Broadcasting Corporation. London and its neighbourhood will provide plenty of opportunities for sectional excursions. Down House, Darwin's home for many years and now in the care of the Association, is within easy reach, while an invited party will visit York, the birthplace of the Association, on Sept. 26–27. Preceding the meeting will be a geological excursion to East Anglia on Sept. 16–22, and those wishing to take part are requested to communicate with Mr. I. S. Double, University, Liverpool, as soon as possible.

THE formative influence upon the teaching of science in schools which was exerted by Canon J. M. Wilson, whose death has recently occurred, was evident so far back as 1866, when he was a member of a committee with Dean Farrar, Prof. T. H. Huxley, and Prof. J. Tyndall, appointed by the British Association at its meeting at Nottingham, "To consider the best means of promoting scientific education in schools". The report of this committee was issued in 1867 and laid stress on science as an essential subject in the curriculum, not necessarily to train physicists and chemists but as an effective instrument in mental development. The subjects suggested in the report were elementary physics, elementary chemistry, and botany. Canon Wilson, in a paper on "Teaching Natural Science in Schools", published in 1867, gave an account of methods adopted in introducing science teaching in Rugby School. He selected botany as the best subject for beginning to train boys in scientific method. This was followed by experimental physics. By his choice, he seems to have anticipated the present-day position of botany in the school curriculum, at any rate, from the theoretical point of view. There is much discussion on the position of botany, or elementary biology, in the school curriculum, but there is still much to be done in a practical way. There are comparatively few secondary schools, especially for boys, where science is introduced by botany or biology, as it was sixty-five years ago under Canon Wilson at Rugby. The sole idea in Canon Wilson's mind was to train independent observation and reasoning, not to supply the biology 'demanded' by the first examination for medical and dental degrees and diplomas, which some of our public and secondary schools are now doing with not quite satisfactory results.

ON April 28, one hundred years ago, the eminent mathematician and physicist, Peter Guthrie Tait, was born at Dalkeith. Educated at Dalkeith Grammar School and the Edinburgh Academy, in 1847 he entered the University of Edinburgh and the following year became an undergraduate of Peterhouse, Cambridge. At the age of twenty-one, he graduated as Senior Wrangler, being the youngest on record. He was also Smith's prizeman. Two years later he was appointed professor of mathematics in Queen's College, Belfast, having Andrews for one of his