

with the material for his long series of books and bulletins. The latter part of his life was spent in Wellington, on the staff of the Dominion Museum.

Varied experience among men gave Elsdon Best ease of manner, and this, coupled with unusual natural gifts—sound judgment, clarity of thought, and quick decision—left a deep impression on all who met him. He was a master of direct English and had great linguistic abilities, best seen in his mastery of the Maori language, which he spoke in later years more accurately than any living Maori. To this was added the gift of thinking like a Maori. His achievement lay especially in accurately recording difficult data.

In the opinion of the late W. H. R. Rivers, Best was the greatest of all ethnological field workers who have worked in the Pacific. He changed the whole face of Maori ethnology, incorporating in his publications all old data of any value and placing on record a mass of his own data far surpassing, both in quantity and quality, all that had been recorded before him. By his death New Zealand has lost one of the first intellects among her native born.

H. D. SKINNER.

MR. HENRY GARNETT.

MR. HENRY GARNETT, for many years director of Messrs. Flatters and Garnett, Ltd., opticians and scientific instrument makers of Manchester, died on Nov. 3, aged sixty-three years. Henry Garnett was born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1868, where his father was head of Newtown School (of the Society of Friends). There he formed a close friendship with the naturalist J. H. Salter (afterwards professor of botany at Aberystwyth). He was apprenticed to a chemist in Evesham, and during his scant leisure

collected a herbarium which was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society. Later he won the Bell Scholarship, and after passing the minor and major (1890) examinations, he secured three silver medals and the Pereira Medal. He worked out, under the direction of Prof. Dunster, the active principles of *Piper ovatum*, and some years later, with Mr. J. Grier, conducted a research into the active principle of ginger, contributing papers to the Pharmaceutical Conference in 1907. Mr. Garnett was keenly interested in birds and plants, and at the time of his death was vice-president of the Manchester Microscopical Society.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:—

Major-General Sir David Bruce, K.C.B., F.R.S., president of the British Association at the meeting at Toronto in 1924, who was a pioneer in the study of tropical medicine, on Nov. 27, aged seventy-six years.

Mr. James H. Dellbridge, who was second engineer in Capt. Scott's first Antarctic Expedition, on Nov. 12, aged fifty-nine years.

Prof. W. A. S. Hewins, first director of the London School of Economics, formerly Tooke professor of economic science and statistics at King's College, London, and formerly Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on Nov. 16, aged sixty-six years.

Sir Thomas E. Hill, O.B.E., lately medical officer of health for the County of Durham and formerly professor of public health in the University of Durham, on Nov. 25, aged sixty-six years.

Mr. W. F. Reid, an original member of the Society of Chemical Industry and former president of the Society, known for his work on smokeless powder, on Nov. 18, at an advanced age.

News and Views.

THE Savilian professorship of astronomy at Oxford, to which Prof. H. H. Plaskett, professor of astrophysics at Harvard University, has recently been appointed, is the oldest chair of astronomy in Great Britain, with the exception of that at Gresham College, London. Like the Savilian professorship of geometry, it was founded in 1619 by Sir Henry Savile (1549–1622), the Elizabethan scholar, provost of Eton, and warden of Merton College, Oxford. John Bainbridge became the first occupant of the chair, Henry Briggs being his colleague in the chair of geometry. Briggs died in 1631 and Bainbridge in 1643, and both were buried in the choir of Merton College Chapel close to the memorial to Sir Henry Savile. During the renovation of the chapel, a good many years ago, the tombstone of Briggs and the memorials to Savile and Bainbridge were removed to the west end of the chapel, where they are to be seen to-day. The immediate successor of Bainbridge was John Greaves, who measured the pyramids; he was deprived of his chair by Parliament in 1648. The chair then passed to Seth Ward, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, while among his successors have been Wren (1661–1673),

David Gregory (1691–1708), Bradley (1721–1762), Thomas Hornsby (1763–1810), Rigaud (1827–1839), W. F. Donkin (1842–1869), Charles Pritchard (1870–1893), and the late Prof. H. H. Turner, who held the chair from 1893 until his death last year.

It is announced in the *Times* that on Nov. 26, at the University of Coimbra, a room was dedicated to the memory of Sir Isaac Newton. At the invitation of the Rector, Dr. João Duarte de Oliveira, the British Ambassador to Portugal presided over the ceremony, and the opening speech was delivered by Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal. Afterwards addresses were delivered on Newton's mathematics, physics, and philosophy, and on the law of gravitation; and the Ambassador then unveiled a bronze name-plate in the Sala de Newton in the observatory. Coimbra, once the capital of Portugal, is picturesquely situated on a hill on the bank of the river Mondego. The earliest certain information of a university in Portugal dates from 1288, but it was three years later that a "Studium Generale" was founded at Lisbon. That city not proving suitable,