

to show to his friends and describe with detailed knowledge his library of books relating to the time when the Royal Society was founded and the succeeding century.

Chaston Chapman will be remembered as a cogent writer and exponent of his views, but his friends have to lament the loss of one whose striking and dignified figure, kindly humour and uniform graciousness endeared him to so many.

ROBERT ROBERTSON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. Louis Duparc, professor of mineralogy and petrography, analytical chemistry and toxicology

at the University of Geneva, a foreign member of the Geological Society of London, known chiefly for his work in mineralogy, on October 21, aged sixty-six years.

Dr. Barton W. Evermann, director of the Museum and the Steinhart Aquarium of the California Academy of Sciences, who has published much work on ichthyology, especially with relation to the geographical distribution of fishes, on September 27, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. K. K. Gedroiz, director of the Experimental Station of the Scientific Institute of Fertilisers, Moscow, a well known worker in soil science, on October 5.

News and Views

Diary of Societies

ANNOUNCEMENTS of meetings of scientific societies, and lists of papers to be read, have increased so greatly in recent years that it has become necessary to reconsider the claims which such particulars may reasonably make upon the space they have hitherto occupied in the "Diary of Societies" in NATURE. From the point of view of interest, it may be doubted whether weekly lists of meetings and papers running to three columns or more merit publication. In most cases fellows of societies receive such announcements direct, and the chief advantage of including the lists in our "Diary" is that fellows of other societies may see what is coming on, and may wish to attend meetings outside their own special societies. Several difficulties arise, however, even on this assumption. Meetings of scientific and technical societies are usually not open to visitors, and often a dozen or more papers may be announced in a list though only one or two papers may be actually read, the rest being read in title only.

Announcements and Reports

IF it is suggested that full lists of papers serve a useful purpose as indicating directions of scientific activity, then the question arises why such lists should be limited to London and some provincial centres. NATURE is an international organ of science, and might just as appropriately publish weekly lists of papers communicated to national scientific societies and academies outside Great Britain. Under "Societies and Academies", we record the proceedings of many such societies, giving short summaries of papers received, while our columns of "Research Items" direct attention to subjects of particular interest or importance. There is thus little justification for devoting excessive space to announcements of ordinary meetings and lists of papers, and we propose in future to include under the title of "Forthcoming Events" only special meetings, lectures, and discussions, or meetings at which single papers or topics having much the same character as that of lectures are being presented. In adopting this plan, we have in mind not only considerations of space but also the interests of the majority of the readers of NATURE

abroad as well as at home; and we need scarcely add that any suggestions as to what might be usefully included or excluded from this new scheme, bearing these two points in mind, would be much appreciated.

The Shirley Institute

SOME anxiety regarding the future of the Shirley Institute was expressed at the annual meeting of the British Cotton Industry Research Association at Didsbury, Manchester, held on October 19. These misgivings were not about the ability of the Institute to continue to carry out fruitful investigations but about the necessary financial support. The Institute has a staff of two hundred, more than sixty of whom are university graduates, and Dr. R. H. Pickard expressed the opinion that the Institute could usefully employ at least twice as many people as at present on the investigation of scientific and technical problems to which the industry requires answers. The work on investigating current trade problems has grown to such an extent as to crowd out much of the fundamental research, and only one sixth of the work is now the long distance research upon which the future of the Association and the industry so largely depends. Financial arrangements made in connexion with the Rayon Department terminate next June and those for the Cotton Department in June 1934. With the exhaustion of the £1,000,000 fund, Government grants to the Association will in future come by annual vote and may accordingly be still further decreased through the need for public economy. The Institute costs about £65,000 a year to run and there is a deficit on the past year of £5,600, largely owing to a corresponding reduction in the Government grant. Only about £25,000 comes from the subscriptions of the 1,200 firms who are members of the Association and these subscriptions were described by the chairman, Mr. H. P. Greg, as ridiculously out of proportion to the size and importance of the cotton industry even in times of bad trade. Contributions of £10 from a firm with a capital of £100,000 or 50,000 spindles, or of £5 from a manufacturer with 1,000 looms are unworthy of the industry or of the results obtained.