

Obituary

Dr. H. Bos

THE death of Dr. Hemmo Bos, Wageningen, is a heavy blow to those interested in phenology, which his three years as founder and editor of the international journal, *Acta Phænologica*, had brought yet closer together. On the day, July 29 last, when the appeal regarding this journal appeared in NATURE, he had a seizure which proved fatal and he died on August 18.

Dr. Bos studied botany and zoology at the University of Groningen, his birthplace in 1857. Appointed to teach these subjects at the Wageningen secondary school in 1877, he lived there until his death. During his later years he was director for seed control in the State Experimental Station, doing much valuable pioneer work. With his brother Ritsema in 1881 he published a textbook on zoology for secondary schools, still in use, revised to date. His doctorate thesis in 1885 on the morphology of ants was followed by other publications, especially for horticultural schools, and articles on phenology.

With another brother, P. R. Bos, Dr. Bos initiated in 1894 the Dutch phenological network, and on the death of P. R. Bos in 1901, he undertook single-handed the labour of compilation. In 1921 he organised, and was the soul of, the Dutch Phenological Society. Already he had extensive correspondence with foreign workers. Hence on the appeal in NATURE in 1926, by the Phenological Committee of the Royal Meteorological Society, for greater international co-operation, he recognised

the opening for his projected journal and threw himself heart and soul into its realisation. The three annual volumes so far published form worthy memorials to him. Fortunately his society, under the leadership of his colleague, Dr. M. Pinkhof, to whom I am indebted for the foregoing details of his life, is well qualified to carry on the work, particulars of which appear in the above-mentioned appeal, if only the necessary additional number of subscribers can be obtained.

J. EDMUND CLARK.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. F. Fülleborn, director of the Tropical Institute at Hamburg, a pioneer in helminthology and also well known for his anthropological studies, on September 9, aged sixty-six years.

Prof. J. E. Marr, F.R.S., fellow of St. John's College, and sometime Woodwardian professor of geology in the University of Cambridge, on October 1, aged seventy-six years.

Prof. Frederick Starr, professor of anthropology in the University of Chicago from 1895 until 1923, an authority on the ethnography of South Mexico, Central Africa, Japan and Korea, on August 14, aged seventy-four years.

Mr. G. M. Thomson, founder of the Dunedin Technical College and the Portobello Marine Biological Station, president of the New Zealand Institute in 1907-8, an authority on the natural history of New Zealand, aged eighty-four years.

News and Views

Science and Intellectual Freedom

PROF. EINSTEIN'S address at the Royal Albert Hall on October 3 was an eloquent plea for intellectual liberty. The meeting was organised by the Refugee Assistance Committee, and was under the auspices of the Society of Friends, the International Students Service, the Academic Assistance Council, and the Refugee Professionals Committee. Lord Rutherford was in the chair, and on the platform were many leading representatives of science and other branches of progressive thought and action. He said that the object of the four bodies mentioned, and of the organisers of the meeting, was to raise funds for the relief of refugee students, teachers and members of the professional classes of any country which had debarred them from carrying on their work for science and learning through no fault of their own. "Our contribution in this emergency," he added, "must mainly be a financial one, combined with the provision of a temporary refuge in our universities and other learned institutions for some of the distinguished scholars and scientists who find themselves faced with destitution and complete collapse of their academic

enthusiastic reception by the assembly, congratulated the British people for remaining faithful to the traditions of tolerance and justice which for centuries they had upheld with pride. He pleaded for support from statesmen and the community in the solution of the problem of securing and maintaining peace, and also in the work of education and enlightenment. "If," he continued, "we want to resist the powers which threaten to suppress intellectual and individual freedom, we must keep clearly before us what is at stake, and what we owe to that freedom which our ancestors have won for us after hard struggles."

Human Sterilisation in Switzerland

ON September 27, under the auspices of the International Federation of Eugenics Organisations, a most instructive address on sterilisation as practised in Switzerland was delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons by Dr. Hans Maier, director of the Psychiatric clinic attached to the University of Zurich. It appears that sterilisation, which Dr. Maier carefully distinguishes from castration, has been practised in