long before suggesting that the pithecanthropoid is also a variety of the same species, but within the next order of difference it can be regarded as a different species of the same genus. That is to say, all those forms I discussed are species and varieties of the genus Homo. I can see, therefore, no objection to postulating hybridism, but like Zuckerman, I believe something must be done about nomenclature. To give an absolute classification, while regarding man as a domesticated animal, is not feasible, for then the wide variation of hominoid forms would demand for its setting out something like the Highland and Agricultural Society's Pedigree Book. I separate out these stocks as "genera", as I have indicated, because there is evidence outside the anatomy to support this first subdivision. Essentially they should be regarded as having at the most no more than specific differences. If I had suggested specific names then the classification of hybrid offspring of these stocks would have been as varieties at least, and the whole system would have become exceedingly clumsy.

I am grateful to Prof. D. A. E. Garrod for pointing out to me that Skhul man is not found with a hybrid culture.

[1] Reference 12, p. 12.
[2] *ibid.*, p. 14.
[3] "The Trend of Race", 5 (New York, 1921).

OBITUARIES

Prof. H. J. Spooner

WE regret to record the death of Prof. Henry John Spooner, former head of the School of Engineering at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, on December 16, at the age of eighty-four. Born on June 16, 1856, he received his training at the Royal School of Mines, and was first associated with the Polytechnic in 1882, when the first series of lectures on engineering subjects was given by him. He was appointed head of the School of Engineering on its formation in 1886, a post which he held until his retirement in 1922.

He also practised as a consulting engineer, and took out a number of patents dealing with steam and internal combustion engines. He was one of the pioneer motorists, took a great interest in the early development of the aeroplane, was a great advocate of the elimination of noise, and was also intimately connected with the development of time-motion studies, for the purpose of improving the efficiency of various operations. He was also the author of a number of engineering text-books, and many thousands of students passed through his hands.

During the War of 1914–18, large numbers of workers of both sexes underwent intensive courses of instruction under his supervision, and he was also honorary technical adviser to the King George Hospital and to the Union of South Africa in connexion with vocational training at the military hospital in Richmond Park.

He was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, an associate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a member of the Institution of Automobile Engineers, and a fellow of the Geological Society, in addition to several other engineering and scientific bodies. In 1895 he became a Knight Commander of the Royal Order of St. Sava, Serbia, and in 1907 he became a knight of the Golden Cross of the Redeemer, Greece. P. KEMP.

Prof. M. Askanazy

PROF. MAX ASKANAZY, a leading Swiss pathologist, whose death has recently been announced (*Schweiz. med. Doct.*, **70**, 1072 ; 1940), was born at Stallupönen in East Prussia on February 24, 1865. He studied medicine at Königsberg, where he qualified in 1890, and from then until 1895 served as assistant in the Pathological Institute. In 1894 he became lecturer in general pathology, pathological mycology and morbid anatomy, obtaining the title of professor in 1903. Two years later he was appointed professor of general pathology at Geneva. The high esteem in which he was held by his pupils and friends was shown on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday in 1925, when they dedicated to him a *Festschrift* which formed part of the 254th volume of *Virchow's Archiv*. His investigations occupied a wide field, but he devoted himself mainly to a study of the hæmopoietic system, animal parasites, and experimental and spontaneous tumours in man. His chief publications were "Dermoid Cysts of the Ovary" (1905), "Bone-marrow" (1927), and "Inflammation" (1929).

The honours conferred upon him included the Marcel-Benoist Prize in 1936, the freedom of the city of Geneva, and the honorary doctorate of the Universities of Coimbra and Geneva.

He died shortly after his seventy-fifth birthday.

J. D. ROLLESTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

M. Henri Bergson, the celebrated French philosopher, on January 6, aged eighty-two (see also NATURE of January 4, p. 24).

Prof. Raymond Pearl, professor of biology in the School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, aged sixty.

Major L. C. D. Ryder, a member of the British Graham Land Expedition, 1935–37, reported killed in action, aged thirty-nine.