the optics of the microscope to which he directed his energies. So far back as 1898 he published, in collaboration with Mr. Charles Slater, an "Atlas of Bacteriology" containing more than a hundred plates of photomicrographs of bacteria. More recently he brought out his "Photomicrography," and many of his photomicrographs of diatoms are of great excellence. His book on "Microscopy," the third edition of which was published last year, is a general treatise on the construction, optics, and use of the microscope. To the Royal Microscopical Society Mr. Spitta contributed in 1911 a note on Winkel lenses and oculars and a report on the value of some Grayson's rulings, the latter entailing a considerable amount of work, and in 1913 he reported on a collection of lenses and other optical apparatus made by Joseph Jackson Lister, the father of Lord Lister, and presented to the Royal Microscopical Society on the death of the latter.

WE regret to learn of the death of PROF. FRÉDÉRIC HOUSSAY, professor of zoology at the Sorbonne since 1904, and dean of the faculty of science since 1919. Houssay's first piece of work, done under the direction of Lacaze Duthiers, was on the operculum and pedal glands of gastropod molluscs, and he presented this as a thesis for his doctorate in 1884. The same year he left for Persia as a member of the Dieulafoy mission, and returned in 1886. Soon afterwards he began a series of studies in vertebrate embryology, of which perhaps the best known is his contribution to the discussion on the vertebral nature of the skull (1890). After following the development of the skull of axolotl, he supported the view that the skull is segmental and represents ten segments. Houssay next turned to the study of dynamical morphology, and published on this subject two important works, "La forme et la vie" (1900) and "Morphologie dynamique" (1910). He devoted special attention to the functional significance of the form of the body, tail, and fins of fishes, studying the movements in relation to form and stability, and he published the main results in 1912 ("Forme, puissance, et stabilité des poissons"). Almost his last work was a continuation of the same line—a study of the flight of birds and the form of their wings, for which he made detailed measurements of 238 skeletons. We join with our French colleagues in regretting the loss of an ingenious worker and a courteous colleague.

WE regret to announce the death, on January 5, of CAPT. HAROLD STUART FERGUSON, at seventy years of age. Educated at Eton and Wimbledon, Capt. Ferguson passed into Woolwich and obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery, but after a few years' service in that corps he resigned his commission and sailed for India. He eventually became English tutor to the three Princes of Travancore, and when they no longer needed tutelage he was appointed second in command of the Nair Brigade of native troops maintained by H.H. the Maharajah of Travancore From that time until his retirement in 1904 he held various appointments under the Travancore Government, including the directorship of the Trevandrum Museum and Public Gardens, where his great love of animals and birds ensured the very careful management of the wild creatures kept in captivity. His collectors at the same time brought in valuable collections of animals, birds, and plants. While in India he was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society, and on his retirement he interested himself greatly in the Zoological Society's Gardens at Regent's Park, and some time before his death he was elected a member of the council of the society. A man of science, a keen sportsman, and a charming companion, Capt. Ferguson died much regretted by a host of friends.

THE death is announced of PROF. CARL TOLDT, who held the senior chair of anatomy in the University of Vienna for twenty-four years. Prof. Toldt was born in Tirol in 1840, and with him disappears almost the last of the great general anatomists—men who worked at comparative as well as at human anatomy. He was well known for his "Atlas of Anatomy," which appeared in 1896, and soon ran through seven editions. He contributed many papers to anatomical literature, the best known being those which treat of the morphology of the mandible.

Notes.

AT the meeting of the Royal Society on March 3 a discussion on isotopes will be opened by Sir J. J. Thomson.

A WIRELESS Press message from Moscow on January 21 stated that Prince P. Kropotkin had contracted inflammation of the lungs, and a fatal issue was feared. Prince Kropotkin's many friends in this country will be glad to know that a later telegram encourages hope of recovery, and says that his illness is apparently due to bronchitis.

SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND, president of the Royal Geographical Society, announced at the meeting of the society on January 24 that the chief of this year's expedition to Mount Everest will be Col. Howard Bury, while the actual reconnaissance of the mountain will be in the charge of Mr. Harold Raeburn, who will leave England for India in March.

THE Galton anniversary meeting will take place on February 16 at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. The Galton lecture will be given by Dr. W. Bateson, at 8.45 p.m., on "Common Sense in Racial Problems," and will be preceded by the Galton dinner, for which tickets may be obtained at the offices of the society, 11 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2