

pathy displayed by Lord Lindley towards every effort to apply scientific methods in practical horticulture. This interest, too, is to be traced to his early admiration of the labours of his father in this field, though the continuance of that interest, in the midst of his professional and judicial preoccupations, may have been strengthened by the inheritance of Prof. Lindley's proprietary rights in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. In the fortunes and the management of that important journal Lord Lindley was to the last keenly interested.

In recognition of the estimation in which his judicial eminence was held, the University of Oxford conferred on Lord Lindley the degree of D.C.L.; the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh both conferred on him that of LL.D. After he became a Lord Justice of Appeal his botanical friends, who were in a position to estimate his scientific as contrasted with his legal attainments, begged him to allow them to

propose his name for election to the Royal Society. To this proposal Lindley declined to agree, on the ground that he was not a scientific worker and had no claim to be regarded as a patron of science. But the appointment of Lindley in 1897 to the Mastership of the Rolls gave the society an opportunity, which it took early in the following year, of electing him F.R.S. under a statute which at that time empowered them to do this in the case of any member of the Privy Council, so that this distinction, too, at least in form, was academic rather than scientific, though it was one worthily bestowed whether on academic or on scientific grounds.

WE regret to announce the death on Saturday, December 17, of DR. T. A. CHAPMAN at the age of seventy-nine years. Dr. Chapman, who was the author of numerous papers on entomology and other branches of natural history, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1918.

### Notes.

THOSE interested in bibliographical research will be glad to learn that the proposals made in *NATURE* of June last (vol. 107, p. 449) for the compilation of a Union List of Current Research Serials under the direction of the British Museum authorities have not fallen on barren ground. We trust that the appeal from the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies, which appears in our correspondence columns, will meet with hearty and generous support from all copy-right, State, and professional librarians, as well as from the larger rate-supported libraries. The action of the British Museum authorities in placing the services of their staff at the disposal of British science is specially noteworthy, and is of good augury for the future relations of literature and science. In one respect the scheme now submitted is an improvement upon our own, for the proposed list will include serials in existence on, or issued since, January 1, 1900. This will link up the list with those prefixed to the Subject Catalogues on Mathematics, Mechanics, and Physics for 1800-1900 published by the Royal Society. The existence of these lists should not be overlooked in the compilation of the present one. On the other hand, the proposal to include in the new list serials not available for reference in the United Kingdom may be thought of doubtful value and practicability. A Union List for Germany is already in existence, and a similar list for the United States is in preparation. The circulation of a list of these unrepresented periodicals through the research libraries should, however, bring about a wider selection in the future purchasing of periodicals. We trust that the most liberal interpretation will be placed upon the phrase "scientific periodicals," and that all departments of knowledge will be equally represented in respect of their research periodicals. On this and other points intending subscribers will no doubt be able to obtain further information, if desired, from the Conjoint Board.

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THE decision of the Electricity Commissioners on the schemes submitted to them in June and July last for re-organising the electricity supply in the London and Home Counties district was published last week. The Commissioners approve of the establishment of a joint authority on practically the same lines as those suggested by the London County Council, the local authorities owning electricity undertakings, and most of the principal supply companies. It will be remembered that the evolution of the scheme was to be in two stages. In the first stage, which ends at latest in 1926, about twenty-four of the existing generating stations were to be turned into sub-stations, receiving their energy in bulk from the remaining stations, which were to be linked together by interconnecting cables. This proposal receives the sanction of the Commissioners. In the second stage the original proposal was to shut down an additional twenty-six stations, leaving seventeen stations for generating the electrical energy. Two of these were to be capital stations, seven auxiliary stations, and the remaining eight to be kept at work until it became practicable to connect them with the others by transmission mains. The Commissioners, however, do not approve of this proposal. Their investigations show that it is more economical to build another super-power station in 1926 than to go on developing the stations which will then be in existence. To do this will involve less capital expenditure, and will reduce the annual cost of supplying electricity to the authorised distributors from 1.15d. to 0.98d. per unit. The new station will be situated at Barking. Unfortunately, members of the Committee of the Supply Companies are raising objections to this proposal. They desire that the whole of the financial control of the joint authority's work should be in the hands of those members of that body who provide the necessary capital. Seeing, however, that they obtain an extension of their tenure as distributors, it ought not to