

knighthood of the same Order last year. Sir Edward Gonner's early death was due to an attack of influenza. At a time like the present when the inculcation of sound economic principles seems to be more than ever necessary, the loss of so good and practical a teacher as Sir Edward Gonner will be deeply felt.

MR. GEORGE CUSSONS.

It is with regret that we record the death on February 10, at the age of seventy-five years, of Mr. George Cussons, the founder of the well-known firm of scientific apparatus makers of Lower Broughton, Manchester. Mr. Cussons in his early manhood gained a studentship at the Royal School of Mines, London, and upon the completion of the course became a drawing-master and also a teacher of geometry and mechanical subjects in evening classes in towns near Manchester. Having considerable mechanical skill, acquired in the course of his apprenticeship, he devised a variety of models and apparatus, which he employed effectively to demonstrate the problems arising in the course of his teaching. Finding great advantage accruing therefrom, he was induced to enter business life as a manufacturer of apparatus to be used in the demonstration of the subjects of geometry, theoretical and applied mechanics, and of physics. Among other excellent apparatus he designed and patented a much-improved Atwood's machine to demonstrate the laws of falling bodies. His firm gained well-deserved repute among Technical Institutions for the excellence and adaptability of its apparatus.

Mr. Cussons, whilst he was a student at the evening classes of the Owens College, Manchester, made the acquaintance of Osborne Reynolds, the eminent Professor of Engineering at the College, and brought to his notice certain models for

use in Descriptive Geometry. He suggested various improvements which were adopted, and the models were exhibited at the National Health Exhibition of 1884, where they gained a medal for excellence. Since that time the firm has been awarded medals for the superior character of its apparatus at exhibitions held at home and abroad, and has supplied scientific equipment to practically every country in the world. It furnished a large number of models for geometrical and mechanical drawing, together with a considerable amount of equipment, for the extensive mechanics laboratory of the Manchester College of Technology, which have proved of eminent service. Mr. Cussons was in close touch with all the principal science institutes, and was always ready to discuss any new suggestions for apparatus, and to place his practical training and his knowledge of the teaching of mechanical and physical science at the service of those concerned.

THE death occurred on January 28, in his 52nd year, of Dr. Charles Baskerville, who had been professor of chemistry at the College of the City of New York since 1904. Dr. Baskerville had previously occupied a similar post at the University of N. Carolina. He did notable work on the rare earths, and carried out many investigations in the chemistry of anæsthetics. His inventions included processes for refining oils, hydrogenation of oils, plastic compositions, reinforced lead, etc.

WE notice with much regret the announcement of the death on March 3, at fifty-five years of age, of Prof. Benjamin Moore, Whitley Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford.

THE *Chemiker Zeitung* reports the death on February 13 of Prof. Theodor Liebisch, of the University of Berlin, well known for his work on physical crystallography, especially in the department of crystal optics.

Current Topics and Events.

A NATIONAL tribute to the memory of Sir Ernest Shackleton took the form of a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral at noon on March 2. The service was conducted by Dean Inge and the Cathedral clergy and was short and simple but impressive and of great beauty. It included some sentences from the Burial Service, the twenty-third Psalm, the lesson from 1 Corinthians xv., the anthem "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace," and two special hymns, "Eternal Father, strong to save" and "For all the saints who from their labours rest." The soft beauty of the perfect music was followed with striking effect by the shrill sounding of "The Last Post" by the boys of H.M.S. *Worcester*. It was impossible amid the splendour of the ceremonial and the distinguished congregation representative of the most refined civilisation not to picture in contrast the rough chapel on South Georgia and the toil-stained whalers who surrounded Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave, and the little *Quest* carrying on the mission on which he perished, tossing in the huge waves of the Southern Ocean or beset by the Antarctic ice. The congregation at St. Paul's included the widow and three children of the explorer, several of his sisters and other relatives, representatives of the King, Queen Alexandra, the Prince of Wales,

the Duke of Connaught, the Colonial Secretary, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Trinity House, and the diplomatic representatives of Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Argentina, and other countries. The Royal Geographical Society was represented by its President, a large number of the Council, and the principal officials, and many other societies and institutions sent representatives. Amongst those with special interest in the Antarctic regions were Mr. John Q. Rowett, Sir John Scott Keltie, Dr. H. R. Mill, Dr. H. O. Forbes, and a strong muster of Sir Ernest's old comrades, including Captain C. W. R. Royds, R.N., and Mr. L. C. Bernacchi of the *Discovery* expedition, Capt. W. Colbeck of the *Morning*, Sir Philip Brocklehurst of the *Nimrod* expedition, Mr. J. M. Wordie, Mr. Greenstreet, and Mr. Rickenson of the *Endurance* expedition, and Mr. Mason, who had sailed on the *Quest*, but had to return on account of his health. No doubt others were present who were not recognized in the great congregation.

MR. CAMPBELL SWINTON gave some very interesting reminiscences at one of the meetings recently held to celebrate the Jubilee of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. In particular he recalled some of the experiments carried out in 1879 by David