

young manhood were shattered, I believed my future to have been destroyed, that nothing but commonplace things would be available to me and that the whole business of living was hardly worth while. It was easy enough to make a living by sticking to my job but even if it did lead to a better post and more pay it lacked the distinction on which I had set my heart—and been disappointed. In short, my ambition was hardly to be recognised.

"I did not tell these things to Lafcadio as I have told them here but he sensed the situation. And just as I resolved that night to cling to this man in the hope of enlightenment, I believe he resolved to fan the almost extinct spark of ambition in his new companion, who was ten years his junior, until it might burn again and warm his disappointed soul."

Ellwood Hendrick was born at Albany, N.Y., on Dec. 19, 1861; he died in his New York home on Oct. 29, 1930. Educated for the most part abroad, at twenty he became manager of the Albany Aniline Dye Works—it is not surprising that he was unsuccessful. He then spent over thirty years in insurance work. He returned to chemical work, in 1917, with the Arthur D. Little Co., Cambridge, Mass. In 1924, he was appointed curator of the Chandler Museum in Columbia University. Of late, he exercised a great influence upon the social development of Columbia students, seeking to make them men of the world. All sorts of willing helpers came to his aid—distinguished actresses and others. He had a very pretty pen, as all know who have his delightful volume of "Percolator Papers" (Harper Bros., 1919), a model in its way—named after the organ of the New York Chemists' Club. He could write on subjects so far apart as Saul of Tarsus and  $C_2H_5OH$ —even ascribe to the latter the greater influence for good in the world.

Hendrick was a perfect letter writer. Early in March of last year, he wrote me a rapturous account of "Green Pastures", the work of his friend Marc Connelly. "I'm so full of it, I want to write about it to some sympathetic soul." To him it was a wonderful picture of the way in which the 'darkies' took the Bible and adjusted it to their own minds. (This may not be without repercussion upon ourselves, if we consider what is the effect upon students of textbook tarradiddles and modern pseudo-scientific mysticism.) "It is all real from a simple and childish point of view that everybody had once. I urge you to see it. It is free from all the offensiveness of apologetics." His charm, in fact, lay in his being himself a primitive. In "Green Pastures", Hendrick was in the element native to his spirit. HENRY E. ARMSTRONG.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. T. F. Bourdillon, formerly conservator of forests, Travancore, on Dec. 19, aged eighty-one years.

Dr. Geo. F. Freeman, director of the Federal Experiment Station at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, since April last, an authority on cotton breeding, on Sept. 18, aged fifty-three years.

The Right Hon. Lord Melchett, P.C., F.R.S., chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., on Dec. 27, aged sixty-two years.

Prof. John Munro, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Bristol, on Dec. 19, aged eighty-one years.

Prof. Pierre Termier, Inspector-General of Mines and Director of the Service de la Carte Géologique, who was elected in 1909 a member of the Section of Mineralogy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, aged seventy-one years.

### News and Views.

WE have on more than one occasion had suggested to us that articles on investigations being carried on at various research centres would be of interest to scientific workers elsewhere. The selection of such centres is, however, a little difficult, and the result might be regarded as invidious, unless it referred to the activities of a particular investigator and the group of workers around him. After all, scientific research is peculiarly individual whether carried out alone or with the help of others. It seemed to us, therefore, that an approach to investigators themselves, inviting them to state the main subjects to which they are now devoting attention or problems which they would like to see solved, might lead to some interesting and suggestive notes. Inquiries, with this intention, have been sent to a number of people engaged in research, and in another column we associate replies received with the birthdays of those who have sent them. It is proposed throughout the year to publish similar notes under the title of "Birthdays and Research Centres", and we believe that the information thus brought together will prove of wide interest.

In the issue of NATURE for Dec. 27, under "News and Views", reference is made to "the birthday anniversaries of three veteran workers in science and

educational progress". In the case of Dr. William Garnett, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on Dec. 30, mention should be made of his work in Newcastle and the counties of Northumberland and Durham during the ten years he resided in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. When in 1884 he was appointed principal and professor of mathematics in the Durham College of Science in Newcastle, he found the College still in occupation of temporary premises ill adapted for its work. Circumstances combined to crown Dr. Garnett's insistent advocacy for the erection of special buildings; a site was acquired, and building operations begun with the north-east wing, which was opened in 1888, to be followed six years later by the completion of the south-east and south-west wings. In 1894 Dr. Garnett resigned the principalship to take up the organisation of technical education for the London County Council. Since that time the work in Newcastle has progressed; not only is the main building completed, but also many others have been erected on the site, in connexion with what is now known as Armstrong College. Further, it was mainly on Dr. Garnett's initiative that the University of Durham sought and obtained a supplementary charter, which provided for the admission of women to degrees in all Faculties save that of theology; a restriction removed later when the University was reconstituted. Finally, Dr. Gar-