

material is of importance. All who had the privilege of knowing him personally will remember him not only as a great scientific worker, but also as a charming man and a gifted talker, with an enthusiasm for his work that was contagious.

The great importance of Prof. Pregl's influence is that he stressed the fact that careful, accurate technique is the basis of all good scientific work, while his methods have made accuracy possible in realms where previously there were only rough approximations.

DR. HENRY M. AMI.

DR. HENRY MARK AMI, who died at Menton, southern France, on Jan. 4, aged seventy-two years, was a well-known geologist who had made valuable contributions to our knowledge of the Palæozoic rocks and fossils of Canada. He was born in Geneva, the son of a Swiss Protestant clergyman who emigrated to Canada when he was a child. He was at school in Ottawa, and thence proceeded to McGill University, where he had a distinguished career and came under the influence of the eminent Canadian geologist, Sir J. William Dawson, who was at that time Principal of the University. He graduated as M.A. and D.Sc. in 1882, and in the same year he joined the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada, from which he retired in 1912.

During his official life, Dr. Ami devoted special attention to the Palæozoic fossils of eastern Canada in the Survey Museum in Ottawa, and added greatly to the value of his researches by studying all the localities whence the fossils were obtained. He also made frequent visits to Europe, especially to England and France, to compare the corresponding geological formations on the two margins of the Atlantic Ocean. He was thus able to throw much new light on disputed questions as to the precise age and succession of the various rocks. His researches on the Devonian and Carboniferous formations of Nova Scotia were particularly noteworthy.

While occupied with his technical work, Dr. Ami travelled extensively and took a deep interest in everything Canadian. He was thus well equipped on his retirement from official duties to undertake the revision and partial rewriting of the volume on Canada and Newfoundland in Stanford's "Compendium of Geography", which was published in 1915. During the War he did good service to the Government in advising on the source of metallic minerals, and was for some time connected with the Trade Department of the British Embassy at Washington. During more recent years he was much handicapped by failing health, but from 1922 onwards he paid an annual visit to the Dordogne, France, where he directed the Canadian School of Prehistory, which he founded. He took part personally in the diggings, which furnished fine collections of Palæolithic flint implements to many of the chief museums in Canada.

Dr. Ami was a familiar figure at scientific con-

gresses, and his genial good nature won him a host of devoted friends on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Geological and Royal Geographical Societies of London, and was awarded the Bigsby Medal of the Geological Society in 1903. A. S. W.

MR. W. D. CHRISTMAS.

WILLIAM DURANT CHRISTMAS died at Peppard, Oxon, on Jan. 3, at the age of sixty years. Educated at Ellesmere College, Shropshire, he was at first a teacher, holding appointments at Haverfordwest and Rugeley. His natural bent for figures found an outlet later when he joined a Stock Exchange firm. During the War he joined the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in a voluntary capacity, at a time when difficulties were being experienced in getting the work done owing to the absence of members of the staff on War service. He assisted in keeping the records, and was particularly attracted to meteorology.

After the War considerable expansion took place in the Rothamsted Experimental Station, and a Statistical Department was set up; Mr. Christmas continued until his death as an honorary worker on the staff of this Department. Aided by W. C. Game and A. D. Dunkley, of the regular staff, he undertook the compilation of the monthly weather records with great enthusiasm and abundant energy. In letters to *NATURE* of Nov. 3, 1921, and Jan. 26, 1922, he directed attention to the abnormal conditions of the year through which we had been passing, a year which will be remembered for its record low rainfall. He followed this up by contributing to the *Times* of Jan. 26, 1923, a summary of the rainfall in 1922. This was the beginning of a regular series of letters which appeared in the columns of the *Times* at frequent intervals until the issue of Nov. 3, 1930, when his last letter was published. Besides rainfall, he dealt with percolation, sunshine, temperature, and related meteorological phenomena, such as fogs and storms.

Mr. Christmas had been in failing health for some years, and never recovered from the blow occasioned by his wife's death in 1929. But he kept up his Rothamsted work until his last illness, and it was a matter of deep regret to him that he was unable to contribute his customary summary of the year's weather to the *Times* on Jan. 2, but had to entrust the task to another.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. S. Henschen, professor of internal medicine at the Caroline Medical-Chirurgical Institute, Stockholm, who carried out much research in anatomy and the pathology of the nervous system, aged eighty-three years.

Prof. C. von Monakow, of Zurich, one of the founders of modern neurology and author of "Die Lokalisation im Grosshirn", aged seventy-seven years.

Prof. J. Ricard (S.J.), who was professor of mathematics and later director of the observatory of the University of Santa Clara, aged eighty years.

Dr. I. Urban, assistant director of the Botanical Museum, Berlin, on Jan. 7, aged eighty-two years.