

made his mark and his influence felt wherever those interests drew him. As an electrical engineer his far-sighted and vigorous pioneer work made him known as in the first rank in Europe and America. His early recognition of the genius of C. E. L. Brown (Brown, Boveri and Co.), as indicated, for example, in his series of articles in 1901-2 on "The Debt of Electrical Engineering to C. E. L. Brown", illustrated his intuitive engineering faculty for seizing and advancing upon the best features of current practice, when not actually initiating them. He had been very appreciative of encouragement in his early career from such men as Gisbert Kapp and André Blondel, and this made him ever watchful to encourage and give such praise as might fairly be given to his young assistants; indeed, many of them were of his own age or older, since he had achieved much, and had established himself, while yet quite a young man.

Behrend's literary and philosophical leanings resulted in his home being built around his library, whether in Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, or Boston; while a strong antiquarian bent for early colonial furniture turned him into a collector of note. He had a wide knowledge of general scientific writings, and perhaps no man held a higher place in his esteem than Thomas Henry Huxley; he made a pilgrimage to Mrs. Huxley at 'Hodeslea' in 1910. Charles Darwin, Andrew D. White, John Perry, were intimate book acquaintances. But it was not merely such men, their fame already established, whom he held in honour, for he often showed himself an alert and aggressive champion of interests which would otherwise have continued in undeserved neglect, as witness his well-known successful activities on behalf of Oliver Heaviside.

Behrend was the recipient of many honours, and year before his death the honorary degree of

doctor of engineering was conferred upon him by Darmstadt. As an American citizen he was loyal and patriotic, but believed that the time was past for intense nationalistic feeling in men of affairs. Of comparatively small stature and frail health but intense vitality, Behrend was an antagonist indeed to be reckoned with when his indignation was stirred, but was a man of large generosity, both in sentiment and practically, to a host of men who long will gratefully remember him.

As publicity has been given to the fact that Dr. Behrend took his own life, it should be recorded here that he was convinced that he was suffering from an incurable cancer. His last years were enriched by his marriage in 1926 to Margaret Plumer Chase, of whose devotion during the long illness preceding his death he wrote in eloquent terms.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Bernhard Bang, formerly veterinary adviser to the Government of Denmark and professor of internal diseases at the Royal Veterinary College, Copenhagen, known for his work on tuberculosis, on June 22, aged eighty-four years.

M. Albert Durand de Grossouvre, *correspondant* for the Section of Mineralogy of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. Aimé Sneider, formerly professor of zoology in the University of Poitiers, known for his work on the parasitic Protozoa, on March 27, aged eighty-seven years.

Prof. J. W. Young, professor of mathematics in Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, author of numerous works on the fundamental concepts of algebra and geometry, on Feb. 17, aged fifty-two years.

## News and Views

### Early Man in Java

ON p. 20 of this issue of NATURE there appears a letter on the recently found Ngandong skull, from Prof. E. Dubois, whose discovery of *Pithecanthropus erectus* and close association with palaeontological research in Java entitle him to speak with authority on the question of early man in south-east Asia. After careful study of Dr. Oppenorth's paper, he has arrived at the conclusion that Ngandong man and Wadjak man are one identical type. This view carries with it certain implications, to which Prof. Dubois briefly refers, of no little importance in the study of the evolution of human types. Wadjak man is represented by two skulls discovered in the terraces of a dried-up fresh-water lake near the southern coast of Java, one in 1889 and the second by Prof. Dubois himself in the following year, and brought back by him from Java in 1895, but not described until 1921. These skulls have been regarded as ancestral to the Australian; but it has been pointed out, notably by Sir Arthur Keith, that Wadjak man, so far as described, presents certain points of resemblance to Rhodesian man—for example, in the relatively enormous size of the

palates, of which the area is identical. Prof. Dubois regards one of the Wadjak skulls, which in this respect differ *inter se*, as approaching the Ngandong skull in the shape of the occiput and other points; while Oppenorth says of the latter that it resembles the Rhodesian skull, especially in the shape of the occipital bone, while the back of the skull "bears a resemblance to the Australian race". Thus with the Talgai skull of Queensland—probably pleistocene, and probably a relative of the Wadjak man, but still more closely related to the modern Australian—the newly discovered Javan skull apparently helps to link up a group of skulls, reaching out experimentally, if not in a direct line of ascent, to the modern Australian type.

### Magic and Medicine Men

ALTHOUGH there is a great similarity in the supernatural performances of witches and medicine men wherever recorded, the selection of certain alleged powers of West African magicians as the subject of a challenge by the local Council of the Christian Missions (see NATURE, June 11, p. 862) adds interest to the