

was always more interested in something which it was unnecessary to do at the time than in the immediate duty before him.

After taking his degree with honours in 'Greats', Mr. Finn went on an expedition to tropical Africa and spent a considerable time travelling, observing, and collecting. On his return he became assistant to Col. A. W. Alcock, who was then in charge of the Indian Museum. There also it was characteristic of him that he devoted more time to observing animals in the Zoological Gardens in Calcutta and its vicinity than to his official duties.

In 1903, Mr. Finn resigned his post and returned to England. The rest of his life was occupied by various minor appointments, none of which he cared to hold very long; by writing for the Press, and by writing books on natural history, the chief of which are: "Indian Sporting Birds", 1915; "How to Know the Indian Waders", 1906; "The World's Birds", 1908; "Game Birds of India and Asia", 1911; "Bird Behaviour", 1919; and with E. Kay Robinson, "Birds of Our Country", 2 Vols. 1922-23.

Mr. Finn had a most remarkable memory for facts, and there is no doubt that in his powers of

observation and his real knowledge of birds and mammals, he had the making of a very great naturalist. For many years, however, he suffered from serious ill-health which made him irregular in his methods of working. He had, however, many delightful qualities and every naturalist who came intimately in contact with him had the highest possible appreciation of his knowledge and abilities.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Ernest Clarke, C.V.O., distinguished for his work in ophthalmic surgery, a manager and vice-president of the Royal Institution, on November 22, aged seventy-five years.

Mr. W. H. Patchell, consulting engineer, president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1924-25, on November 24, aged seventy years.

Mr. Charles M. Stuart, first headmaster (1888-1922) of St. Dunstan's College, Catford, who did much for the promotion of scientific method in education, on November 22, aged seventy-five years.

News and Views

Honour for Prof. Karl Pearson, F.R.S.

PROF. KARL PEARSON, of University College, London, has been awarded the Rudolf Virchow medal by the Berlin Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte. The award is made in recognition of Prof. Pearson's conspicuous services for the advancement of the study of human biology, and especially his pioneer work in the field of biometrics and his contributions to the study of eugenics, in which he has carried on and extended the work of the late Francis Galton. In conveying the announcement of the award, Prof. Eugen Fischer, president of the society, recalls the fact that up to the present the only recipients of the medal have been von der Steinen and Koch-Grünberg, the ethnologists; Olshausen and Heger, the archaeologists; Toldt and Hans Virchow, anatomists; and lastly Erwin Baur, the geneticist. The value of the award is enhanced not only by its significance as a recognition of the international character of science, but also by the fact that on this, the first occasion on which the award has been made to a scientific worker outside the boundaries of Central European countries, the choice has fallen on one who is British. This, however, is not the only tribute which has been paid recently to the position in international scientific circles held by Prof. Pearson. The Sixth International Congress of Genetics, when assembled last summer in plenary session at Ithaca, New York, in conveying cordial greetings to Prof. Pearson and "best wishes for his health and long success and satisfaction in his scientific work", acknowledged the great indebtedness of the science of genetics to the statistical methods developed by him and now universally used.

To no one could these honours have fallen more appropriately. As Galton professor of eugenics in the University of London and as director of the Francis Galton Laboratory of National Eugenics, Prof. Pearson has attained a world-wide reputation for the originality and fertility of his application of statistical methods to the problems of biology and anthropology. His statistical methods have been developed in innumerable papers contributed to scientific periodicals and in a number of books, of which the "Grammar of Science" (1899) and "National Life from the Standpoint of Science" (1901) have exerted no inconsiderable influence on the development of scientific thought. These methods have been applied to the study of topics to which their adaptability would at one time have been inconceivable to any but the fertile genius of Francis Galton, whose life and letters were edited with discrimination and judgment by Prof. Pearson in three volumes (1914, 1924 and 1930). Yet notwithstanding the range and quality of his output, the great achievement of his fifty years teaching and work in London has been his success in inspiring and directing the work of others, for the most part his own pupils, who with him have contributed to the great advance in the exact scientific study of man and his heredity during the last generation. Prof. Pearson's success in this direction has been conspicuous in his editorship of *Biometrika*, a periodical for the statistical study of biological problems, which was founded by himself, the late W. F. R. Weldon and Sir Francis Galton. Happily, when Prof. Pearson retires from active teaching, as he proposes to do at the end of the current session, he will retain the editorship of this periodical.