astronomy was awakened by contact with such inspiring teachers as W. W. Payne and H. C. Wilson. In 1899 he was appointed professor of mathematics at Fargo College (North Dakota). It was here that the problem of terrestrial magnetism first engaged his attention and he devoted his summer vacations (1904–6) to magnetic observations for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in the north-central and western States. His interest in this field grew so rapidly that in October 1906 he adopted it as his life work when he became associated with the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

Here Prof. Fisk focused his activities on the land magnetic survey—one of the major undertakings of the Department. He made two detailed surveys of the Bermuda Islands, in 1907 and 1922, and in 1908 conducted magnetic expeditions in Central America, in the West Indies, and in the northern countries of South America. He was also greatly interested in the investigations of possible eclipse effects on the earth's magnetic field and participated in several eclipse expeditions of the Department—the last was on the occasion of the eclipse of August 21, 1932, when he was in charge of three observing parties in New England. He took a prominent place in the instruction of many of the Department's most active observers and in the laborious observations during many years in Washington, D.C., relating to the control of instrumental outfits and the determination of the provisional international magnetic standards.

Prof. Fisk's chief research contribution was the investigation of secular changes in the earth's magnetism and of the shifting of isoporic foci disclosed by magnetic data obtained at strategic repeat-stations by observers under his supervision. Mature deliberation led him to infer that secular changes in the earth's magnetism determined by observations on its surface might reflect changes within the earth's crust or interior. At the time of his death, he had in preparation an exhaustive paper on this subject.

Besides membership of a number of scientific societies, Prof. Fisk was an active worker in the American Geophysical Union, being secretary of its Section of Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity in 1929–32. Because of an unusual breadth of culture extending far beyond the confines of his scientific activity, it was his pleasure and privilege to render important service to his community in its civic and religious life. His quiet disposition, generous nature, and helpful counsel, won him the esteem of his colleagues and friends. Those who shared his acquaintance and work, will mourn with his widow and four children his premature passing.

H. D. HARRADON.

MR. B. H. SOULSBY

MR. B. H. SOULSBY, who died at Reading on January 14, aged sixty-eight, was for nearly thirty-eight years in the service of the Trustees of the British Museum, first at Bloomsbury and later at South Kensington. He was educated at Cheltenham College and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and also studied at Göttingen. He entered the service of the Trustees as a second-class assistant in the Department of Printed Books in 1892, and became successively superintendent of the Map Room, of the Copyright Office, and finally deputy superintendent of the Reading Room. During his time at Bloomsbury, he catalogued the library of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and translated some early geographical works. In 1902 he published a small pamphlet on the earliest two maps which bear the name America.

In 1909 Mr. Soulsby was transferred to the Natural History Museum as assistant in the Director's office, and in January 1921 he was appointed librarian in succession to the late Mr. B. B. Woodward. His principal official duty was to continue Woodward's Catalogue of the Natural History Library, a monument of bibliographical care and research and a mine of information, the value of which was recognised far beyond the limits of the Library to which the work refers. Woodward had compiled six volumes and one supplementary volume, and at the time of Mr. Soulsby's retirement, the second supplementary volume was well on the way to completion.

At the time of his death, Mr. Soulsby was seeing through the press the final stages of a revised, second edition of the "Catalogue of the Works of Linnæus . . . in the British Museum". The first edition, which was compiled by B. B. Woodward and W. R. Wilson, was a quarto publication of 27 pages, comprising some 580 entries. The second edition will contain about 300 pages of text, with nearly four thousand entries, accompanied by bibliographical notes, plates and an index.

It was upon this index that Mr. Soulsby was engaged, with his accustomed industry and enthusiasm, at the time of his death. The forthcoming publication of this Linnæan Catalogue is a matter of great interest to librarians in Sweden, from several of whom Mr. Soulsby obtained considerable assistance in its preparation. The compiler used to claim that the collection of Linnæana at South Kensington was second only in richness and importance to that at the Royal University Library of Uppsala, and if this is so, it is largely due to Mr. Soulsby's great generosity, inasmuch as ever since he undertook the work of producing a second edition of this catalogue, he was continually presenting rare and costly Linnæana to the library at South Kensington.

MR. J. L. S. HATTON

JOHN LEIGH SMEATHMAN HATTON, who died on January 13, aged sixty-seven years, was the first principal of East London College and, at the time of his death, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London. He was born at Street Aston on May 27, 1865, the son of the Rev. J. L. S. Hatton,

rector of West Barkwith, Lincolnshire. He died at his home at Sanderstead, Surrey, and is survived by his widow and two sons.

Mr. Hatton entered Oxford with a scholarship at Hertford College and obtained a first class in the school of mathematics in 1889 and a second class in natural science (physics) in 1890. He acted for a short time as demonstrator in the Clarendon Laboratory and was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn.

In 1892, Mr. Hatton began to organise the day and evening teaching work of the People's Palace in Mile End Road, and by his unremitting effort and enthusiasm, supported by the interest and encouragement of the Drapers' Company, he built up an institution which, in 1907, became East London College, a school of the University of London, with day courses leading to degrees of the University in the faculties of arts, science and engineering. Mr. Hatton became a member of the Senate of the University in 1903, representing the faculty of science, and continued in this office until on the reconstitution of the University, he became a member *ex officio*.

Mr. Hatton's work for the University was as thorough and valuable as that for his own College. He was dean of the faculty of science from 1922 until 1926, chairman of the Board of Studies in Mathematics for many years, was elected deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1930, and assumed the office of Vice-Chancellor last September. He was for many years head of the Mathematical Department at East London College, and was appointed University reader in geometry in 1927 on his retirement from this post. He was the author of several mathematical works, including "The Theory of the Imaginary in Geometry", but his main interests were in teaching and administration.

MR. WILLIAM H. V. WICKES of Bristol died on February 2, aged eighty-six years. Wickes was a well-known local geologist and had been guide, philosopher and friend to many of the older school, British and foreign. He wrote short papers on the Rhætic bone-bed and the mineral beekite and made a varied collection, passing his best things on to the British and the Bristol Museums.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Johan van Baren, professor of geology and mineralogy in the Agricultural University of Wageningen, Holland, an authority on soil mineralogy, on February 7, aged fifty-seven years.

Lieut.-Col. J. C. G. Kunhardt, formerly of the Indian Medical Service, who did valuable work on plague prevention in India, and also in the advancement of the rubber industry, aged fifty-seven years.

Prof. A. G. Leonard, professor of geology in the University of North Dakota and State geologist, on December 17, aged seventy-seven years.

Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., assistant director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1886–98, and president of Section K (Botany) of the British Association in 1919, aged eighty-nine years.

Prof. Ormond Stone, director of the McCormick Observatory and professor of practical astronomy in the University of Virginia from 1882 until 1912, on January 17, aged eighty-six years.

Sir J. Arthur Thomson, formerly regius professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen, who was widely known as a writer and lecturer on natural history, on February 12, aged seventy-one years.

News and Views

Gold in Kenya

THE debates on the amendment of the Kenya Native Lands Trust Ordinance in both Houses of Parliament on February 8 did little to remove apprehension as to the manner in which the exclusion of land from the reserves is likely to affect the native population. The motion for papers moved by Lord Lugard in the House of Lords was withdrawn; and the amendment of Mr. Lunn to Mr. Donner's original motion, approving the action of the Government of Kenya in the steps taken to develop the goldfields and safeguard the interests of the natives, was defeated by a majority of 151. The case against the amendment of the Ordinance, as accepted by the Kenya legislature, was stated lucidly by Lord Lugard, who was ably seconded by the Archbishop of Canterbury; while in the House of Commons Sir Robert Hamilton gave an emphatic, but temperately phrased, expression to the feeling of uneasiness which has been aroused by the manner in which the Government has handled the situation. It cannot be said that the Government has given a satisfactory reply to its critics. The main contention, that the exclusion of land from the reserve without a compensating grant of additional land is a breach of faith and will be detrimental to tribal life, has not been met. However convincingly it may be argued on this ground or on that that there has been no real departure from the undertaking of the Ordinance, either in letter or in spirit, it is the native point of view that counts in this connexion. As Sir Robert Hamilton said, if the confidence of the native in the good faith of the Government be shaken, "in the long run we shall lose more than will be repaid by all the gold in Africa".

THE voting in the House of Commons was no doubt largely affected by the stress laid by Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister on the small number of individuals and the relatively small area of land affected by the present proposals, as well as by the anxiety of the Government and of the local administration to make it clear that it is their desire not only that the native should not suffer, but rather that he should benefit from the stream of prosperity which will flow