Prof. Regener described experiments on the variation with time of the hard component. Periodic variations both with respect to solar and sidereal time are found. The former has an amplitude of 0.25 per cent, with maxima at 10^h and 22^h. The variation with sidereal time has a smaller amplitude with a maximum at about 18^h,

and may be attributed to the effect of galactic motion suggested in this connexion by Compton.

While there is obviously much to be cleared up in the field of cosmic rays, the discussion left the impression that the subject is not as much in a state of confusion as it has often been in the past.

E. J. WILLIAMS.

Obituary Notices

Prof. W. Stroud

PROF. WILLIAM STROUD, chairman of the firm of Barr and Stroud, Ltd., died at the age of seventy-nine years on May 27, at Torquay.

At an unusually early age young William Stroud of Bristol entered Balliol College, Oxford. "I was confronted," he wrote, "with the problem whether I should study Latin Hexameters and Greek Iambics or devote myself to what was contemptuously called 'Stinks'." It was a lecture by Prof. Tyndall that determined his choice, and his association with the late Prof. Barr that diverted his physics to industry.

When in July, 1935, the University of Leeds bestowed upon Lord Rutherford and himself the honorary degree of D.Sc., he wrote: "There was Lord Rutherford, the most worthy representative of Pure and Sacred Physics, and here was I, the least worthy representative of Profane Physics," between which and engineering he found it difficult to discriminate, for he was both a physicist and an engineer. How to attain some superlative accuracy from available materials and machines was a question never absent from his mind. For judicious approximation—that characteristic of the skilled engineer—he had a natural gift, but he never acquired the facility in the use of the slide rule of his colleague who, he alleged, in order to multiply two by two, would set these figures on the appropriate scales and, after close scrutiny, declare the product to be 3.96 or 7.

From Balliol, Stroud proceeded to the Universities of Heidelberg and Würzburg, where, incidentally, he acquired his habit of continuous smoking. Arthur Smithells in the Heidelberger Schloss dared him to smoke a five-pfennig cigar. The results of this unaccustomed experiment were unpleasant. "I determined," he said, "to conquer such squeamishness and eventually achieved such a triumph that up to date I must have smoked over 110,000 cigars—more than half a ton of tobacco—with much satisfaction, and three cigarettes smoked simultaneously in parallel with no satisfaction whatever."

Soon after Stroud's return to England, the Yorkshire College of Leeds in June 1885 lost, by resignation, two of its professors, Sir Edward Thorpe and Sir Arthur Rücker. His friend, Prof. Smithells, was appointed to the vacant chair of chemistry and he, at the early age of twenty-five years, succeeded Sir Arthur Rücker as Cavendish professor of physics.

This chair he occupied with great distinction until 1909, when he retired in order to devote his whole attention to the rapidly expanding business he and his partner had established in Glasgow.

During his first session, Stroud thought it necessary to discourse with what he termed "the best Professional dignity he could summon to his assistance". From the results of the terminal examinations he was, however, dismayed to find "that most of the students had learned next to nothing from my lectures". "I resolved," he said, "that the Pontifical Pomposity to which I had been accustomed would be a thing of the past." How well he succeeded in teaching physics effectively with inspiring geniality will always be remembered by his many students, to whom he was affectionately known as 'Billy'.

It was at the Yorkshire College that he met the colleague of his lifetime, the late Archibald Barr, the occupant of the chair of engineering at Leeds and later at Glasgow. Their collaboration in the invention of the rangefinder and many other valuable appliances has already been recorded in the obituary of Prof. Barr (NATURE, 128, 294; 1931) and is well known. The power of assessing conditions and of rapid readjustment was an outstanding characteristic of Prof. Stroud in all his activities, whether physical, practical or financial, for in all these spheres he was eminently successful. For any problem his penetrating mind would produce not merely one but several solutions and each with its variations. His letters from Leeds abound with coloured sketches of diagrams and mechanisms and such expressions as "Undoubtedly this is the way to do it.—A still better way is this—". "Try turning the mechanism inside out." Gifted with eloquence, he was sparing of unnecessary words. Invariably his letters ended with "Y.v.t., W.S."

By his death, science and industry have lost a very great man.

JAMES WEIR FRENCH.

Dr. C. C. Edgar

WE regret to record the sudden death of Dr. Campbell Cowan Edgar, distinguished as an authority in Egyptian archaeology, which took place on May 10 at Berkhamsted.

Dr. Edgar, who was of Scottish extraction, entered Oriel College as a scholar in 1891, and later was attached to the Egyptian Department of Antiquities,