

bracida (Hemiptera) on which group she was an acknowledged authority.

In 1922 she visited the rain forests of the Essequibo and Demarara Rivers in British Guiana, and this expedition was the climax of her career as a field naturalist. During all her travels her outlook had been that of the ecologist, and the experience of tropical conditions enabled her in 1924 to give a memorable course of lectures to the Tripos class in zoology on certain aspects of animal ecology. This course resulted in a book entitled "Forest, Steppes and Tundra: Studies in Animal Environment" (1926), which is of permanent value as a series of essays linking the then somewhat youthful science of animal ecology with the outlook of the field naturalist. In this book there is much which deserves frequent re-reading, passages full of sound sense and keen insight. Her vivid and individual style expresses much of the woman herself—the energetic personality with its intense joy in the beauty of living things, combined in such a rare way with a critical appreciation of the scientific problems of the interaction of animals with their environment. But how can one describe adequately the charm of her company, the kind-hearted sincerity of her friendship and the irresistible delight and gaiety of her conversation? She possessed a most whimsical humour, kindly yet penetrating, and her skill as a *raconteur* was incomparable. The sincere sympathy of a wide and varied circle of friends will go out to her husband and daughter. Her passing leaves a gap which cannot be filled.

W. H. THORPE.

Prof. H. Freundlich, For.Mem.R.S.

SUPPLEMENTING the notices referring to Prof. H. Freundlich, which appeared in NATURE of May 10, Prof. J. Traube writes:

I have been termed the founder of scientific *Kapillar-Chemie* (see, among other papers, Freundlich, "I. Traube, zum 70sten Geburtstag", *Kolloid-Zeitschrift*, 50, 194; 1930). My papers are so nearly related to those of Freundlich, that I feel it a duty to write some words in memory of the man who has done such excellent work on colloid chemistry and especially on *Kapillar-Chemie*.

In view of Prof. Rideal's article, I must restrict myself to the special connexion between Freundlich's work and my own. Freundlich created the name "Traube's Rule". He directed special attention to this rule, and he was the first to recognize its importance.

More interesting is, perhaps, Freundlich's agreement with me with regard to the theory of solutions. I have at all times declared, in contradiction to van 't Hoff and Arrhenius, W. Ostwald and W. Nernst, that the well-known theory of van 't Hoff and Arrhenius is only partially right, that not the number of particles and ions only are to be considered, but especially the effect of the particles with regard to the surface tension, etc., and that the theory of solution is not so similar to the theory of gases as van 't Hoff supposed. I was very glad when I read in Freundlich's article written in honour of my seven-

tieth birthday that Freundlich wrote, "es heisst nicht mehr 'entweder oder' sondern 'sowohl als auch'"; and when the editor of the journal, Wolfgang Ostwald, in deference to the memory of his father had suggested that certain changes in the article should be made, Freundlich replied, "In this case the changes would be made still more in favour of Professor Traube".

From a letter dated February 14, 1940, which Herbert Freundlich wrote to me from the United States, I was very glad to learn that he also had accepted my conception of the existence of different particles of liquids and gases above and below the critical temperature, which displaces the Andrews and van der Waals' theory of continuity. He recalled also that Prof. O. Mass in Montreal had acknowledged these ideas.

Prof. J. W. C. Gunn

THE death of Prof. John William Cormack Gunn at the age of fifty-two will prove a severe loss to the University of Cape Town, for he had occupied the chair of pharmacology since 1919, had done much to establish the medical school and in recent years had served as dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

An Orcadian by birth, Gunn took his medical degree at Edinburgh. He obtained several academic prizes, and after qualification devoted himself to teaching and research in pharmacology. He acted as assistant first at Edinburgh and then at University College, London. He served in the R.A.M.C. throughout the War of 1914-18 and on demobilization became lecturer at the Queen's University of Belfast. He left this post to take the chair at Cape Town in 1919. At Cape Town he carried out researches on the pharmacology of South African native plants and inspired research among many of his graduates.

As time went on, Gunn's energies were more and more absorbed in the administrative work connected with the rapidly growing School of Medicine. He showed a special aptitude for this work and was warden of the Medical Students' Residence, curator of the Wernher-Beit Medical Laboratories and dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Gunn's cheerful personality made him popular both as a teacher and as a colleague and his loss will be felt severely by a wide circle of friends both in South Africa and in Great Britain.

We offer our sympathy to his wife and two sons.

A. J. CLARK.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir David Wilson Barker, president during 1903-5 of the Royal Meteorological Society, on June 15, aged eighty-two.

Mr. C. W. Jeffries, director of the Royal Observatory, Hong-Kong, since 1932, on June 22.

Prof. Robert Robison, F.R.S., professor of biochemistry in the University of London and head of the Department of Biochemistry at the Lister Institute, on June 18, aged fifty-seven.