The address by Prof. G. H. Rivière, keeper of the Musée National des Arts et Traditions Populaires in Paris, on war-time research in the ethnography of France, should be well pondered, not without mortification, in Great Britain, where, but for the pioneer work of Dr. Peate in Wales, we have little indeed to set beside French achievements of recent years. A determined effort is being made by the French museums service, now under the control of the Ministry of Education, to record systematically the fast disappearing 'popular arts' of the country: the principal investigations undertaken during the War covered domestic furniture, rural architecture (for the purposes of reconstruction) and artisan techniques (including pottery, metallurgy, weaving, woodworking and basketry). Specimen files shown by Prof. Rivière for each of these researches gave a striking impression of the thoroughness, completeness and systematic efficiency without which such nation-wide investigations could scarcely be successfully undertaken. Lesser researches related to marionette theatres, folk-songs of Brittany, folk-tales, and to preparations for an ethnographical atlas of France and ethnographical monographs on particular French communities studied from all aspects. In 1945, the 557 provincial museums concerned with French ethnography were reorganised under a master plan providing for the division of their collections into carefully selected and well-spaced temporary exhibitions and larger reserve collections for scientific study. It may be hoped that full accounts of these developments will soon be available in Britain, for, without necessarily accepting so high a degree of centralization, we may gain much inspiration from French experience.

Prof. Sergio Sergi, of Rome, gave a short report, illustrated with photographs and diagrams, on the very important discoveries of human remains of Palæolithic age which he made at Saccopastore and Monte Circeio during the War, together with comparisons of the crania with those of other known specimens of Palæolithic man.

In physical anthropology, as in domestic ethnography, Great Britain lags at present far behind, and Prof. Tamagnini's talk on April 18, outlining remarkable progress made in Portugal, was fresh and salutary proof of this. After a short sketch of the history of anthropological studies in Portugal (with their emphasis from the beginning on the physical side), he summarized current research activities at Lisbon (under Heleno, de Vilhena and Barbosa Sueiro), Porto (Mendes Corrêa and Pires de Lima) and Coimbra (the speaker himself and Serra). Finally, he described his own Institute's very large and important statistical undertaking, in which the genealogical method is being applied to the study of blood groups and other characters among great numbers of families in the Department of Coimbra.

Prof. Valšik of Prague gave a very brief statement of the effect of German occupation upon Czechoslovak anthropology. All organised research in science had stopped, in default of any subservience to the Germans, and no publication had been possible. Physical anthropologists, such as himself, had mostly been engaged on the applications of science to health.

Lastly, Prof. Shevket Aziz Kansu's short but informative review of recent progress in Turkey showed that he and his colleagues were extremely active during the War, and that all branches of the science were being very successfully developed there.

On April 30, Prof. A. L. Kroeber, the United States delegate, delivered the Huxley Memorial Lecture for 1945 on "The Ancient Oikoumenê as an Historic Culture Aggregate", a memorable development of some aspects of his interpretation of cultural diffusion through the Eurasian land mass from the earliest times to the present. W. B. FAGG

OBITUARIES

Prof. G. N. Lewis, For.Mem.R.S.

BY the death of Gilbert Newton Lewis in his seventy-first year the world has lost one of the greatest of its physical chemists. Since 1898, when he published his first paper with T. W. Richards on "Some Electrochemical and Thermochemical Relations of Zinc and Cadmium", until his last paper on "Paramagnetism of the Phosphorescent State" in 1945, he wrote some hundred and sixty-five papers on many branches of physical chemistry.

There are few branches of our science which 'G. N.' did not illumine by contributing something new and something fundamental to them. He was appreciated most widely abroad, not only for his concept of the static atom and the clear views on valency, notably the electron pair which that gave rise to, but also for his contributions to the thermodynamics and free energies of chemical substances and solutions, which introduced conceptions such as thermodynamic activity and fugacity now universally adopted. Many of the free-energy relationships were determined by means of electrode potentials—a field to which he devoted much attention. Lewis was the first (1933) to isolate deuterium, the heavy hydrogen isotope, to show its possibilities in the study of isotopic reactions, and to determine the physical properties of liquid and solid deuterium. His papers on acids and bases, on ultimate rational units and dimensional theory, give some indication of the wide interests of a gifted mind. During the last five years of his life he became deeply concerned with the problem of fluorescence, contributing some fifteen papers on this subject. His last papers, on phosphorescence and paramagnetism, were published last year.

The small volume printed in Berkeley to commemorate his seventieth birthday reveals how much America in its universities and industries is indebted to the school of which G. N. Lewis was the active and stimulating head. Among his many honours he received the Davy Medal of the Royal Society and was an honorary fellow of the Royal Institution. Some of us at Cambridge remember the summer when he paid us a visit, memorable for the enthusiasm which he imparted to all, and to the endless source of wonder and interest to his children which the differences in the countryside of California and Cambridge provided. ERIC K. RIDEAL

Prof. F. Broili

FERDINAND BROILI, professor of palæontology and historical geology in the University of Munich, died on April 30, aged seventy-two. He was a student of v. Zittel and Rothpletz in Munich, visited the Permian of Texas in 1898 and there collected materials on which, during the next ten years, he published a series of important papers on reptiles and amphibia. He then wrote on the Permian Brachiopods of Timor