to be elected to a chair at Fribourg, not knowing that his new friend, too, had similar ambitions. When he learnt the position, he told Breuil at once that he was no longer a candidate, adding: "I indeed prefer your friendship to this chair".

In 1909 Obermaier was associated with Breuil and the late Prince of Monaco in excavating the great prehistoric home-site at Castillo in North Spain, and a few years later, when the Prince founded the Institut de Paléontologie humaine at Paris, he was named as one of the professors. He travelled much with Breuil at this time both in France and Spain, studying sections, home-sites and cave art. The fateful year 1914 found him concluding the excavations at Castillo, and he remained in Spain throughout the First World War, being granted a small post at Madrid. Later he accepted Spanish nationality. Between the wars he worked in Spain, until the Spanish civil war drove him to Switzerland, with the loss in Madrid of many valuable papers. When the Second World War broke over Europe, he was occupying a post in Fribourg, where he was laid low by a stroke some months ago, and has recently died. Like Breuil, he was a Roman Catholic priest, but, again like his colleague, he never held a cure of souls.

Prof. Obermaier's quaternary geological work, both in the Pyrenees and the Cordillera Cantabrica, was a real contribution to knowledge, as, too, were his numerous excavations and his work at the painted cave of Pileta in the extreme south of Spain. The personal impact of the tragedy of three wars in his learned life may perhaps have prevented the full stature of his mind from making itself felt as widely as it might otherwise have done; but those who knew him always felt and deeply respected the relentless integrity of his mental powers as much as they loved his personal qualities. They can only regret his passing—knowing that science has lost in him an honest and tireless investigator.

M. C. BURKITT

Prof. J. Bečka

THE November issue of *Chemické Listy* records the death at Mauthausen camp on February 25, 1942, of the biochemist, Dr. Jan Bečka, three days after his fifty-third birthday. Prof. Bečka graduated at Prague in both medicine and the natural sciences, and his first researches established the chemical and physical identity of certain types of keratin from various sources. In 1919 he became lecturer in chemistry at the Brno Veterinary College and was appointed professor in 1926, which post he held until the College was closed in 1939.

Bečka's later researches related to problems of ion exchange in pathological conditions, and he studied the effects of calcium and phosphorus in cases of narcosis. He was especially interested in mineral metabolism, and made elaborate studies of the effects of magnesium in animal metabolism. Most of his publications (eighty-six in all, or more than a hundred if those with students are included) appeared in Continental journals, and though some of his earlier researches were known to British colleagues, his last two books on the biochemistry of healing (1940) and the biochemistry of cancer (1941) probably remain unknown outside Czechoslovakia.

Bečka frequently visited Britain, Canada and the United States; he was responsible for introducing the use of insulin into Czechoslovakia.

J. K. Lubanski

JOZEF KAZIMIERZ LUBANSKI, a Polish physicist who was working at the Laboratory for Aero- and Hydrodynamics of the Technical University at Delft, died on December 8, at the age of thirty-two. After having obtained the degree of *magister philosophiæ* at Wilna in 1937, and worked for two years as an assistant in theoretical physics at Polish universities, Lubanski obtained a grant in order to travel to Holland and to work under Prof. H. A. Kramers at Leyden. His original intention was to go to Copenhagen in the following year; the War prevented this, and for some time he worked with Prof. L. Rosenfeld at Utrecht. A number of papers dating from this period, mostly in *Physica*, one in the *Arkiv för Matematik, Astronomi och Fysik*, deal with the properties of mesons and similar particles considered in relation to quantum mechanics.

Since the autumn of 1945, Lubanski had been assistant at the Laboratory for Aero- and Hydrodynamics of the Technical University at Delft. He studied with considerable success the theoretical aspects of this subject, but he had not yet published any of his work.

Lubanski's death is felt as a great loss by his many friends; he was much liked both for his personal character and for his scientific knowledge, as well as for that of philosophy and general literature.

J. M. BURGERS

Prof. J. G. Koenigsberger

NEWS has been received of the death of Prof. Johann Georg Koenigsberger, 33 Wildtalstrasse, Freiburg i. Breisgau (17B), French Zone, Germany, in his seventy-first year. Prof. Koenigsberger was well known for his work on the magnetic properties of minerals, and at the time of his death he was in communication with physicists in England with regard to the publication of a paper which he submitted in 1939 and which was held up during the War; the paper was concerned with changes of coercivity with grain size.

Prof. Koenigsberger was suspended from his chair in 1933 and dismissed from the University of Freiburg i. Breisgau in 1934 for having been republican deputy in the Diet of Baden and because of his partly Jewish ancestry. His daughter came to Britain in 1935 and served in the A.T.S. during the Second World War. Koenigsberger was reinstated as professor at the close of hostilities, and carried on theoretical research work under difficulties until the time of his death.

L. F. B.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. William Barnicot, M.B.E., secretary of Rothamsted Experimental Station since 1920, on December 30, aged seventy-four.

Prof. Paul Langevin, For.Mem.R.S., director of the École de Physique et Chimie Industrielle, Paris, on December 19, aged seventy-four.

Prof. Edward L. Mark, emeritus professor of zoology in Harvard University, aged ninety-nine.

Mr. C. C. Robertson, formerly chief research officer and professional assistant to the chief conservator of forests, Department of Forestry, South Africa, on December 3, aged sixty-two.

Mr. R. N. Vyvyan, formerly engineer-in-chief of the Marconi Co., and one of the pioneers of radio-communication, on December 14, aged seventy.