

Qau, the temple-tombs cut in the rock are of exactly the plan of the Nubian temples, a form unknown elsewhere ; and, further, the family name—Senusert—of the XIIth dynasty appears. These facts link together and agree with the Egyptian “ prophecy ” of the XIIth dynasty, that a king Ameny (=Amenemhat) should arise from the south, the son of a Nubian woman. It appears, then, that when the Syrians broke in on the north, the Gallas pushed down from the south, controlled the artists in black granite, and founded a rule of the south which centred at Qau ; this was in alliance with the Herakleopolite dynasties, and eventually founded the XIIth dynasty at Thebes.

Last year there came to light some work of a prehistoric culture, differing in all respects from the recognised prehistoric Egyptian. This year the clearance of a stratified deposit showed that this unknown culture was as old, or older, than the early prehistoric age already recognised. As the known prehistoric culture is quite continuous on all sites, and bears nothing like the new material, the presumption is that we are handling remains of a still earlier period. This new culture is identical in the

types of flint chipping with the flints so widely spread from the Fayum up to the Palestine desert. We have now certainly the general products of this people, who have as yet only been known by their flint work. Further, this work is closely like that of the lowest stages of Susa, and the Solutrean of Europe. All of these seem to be due to various waves of one Asiatic culture, and thus accord with the recent views in the “ Cambridge Ancient History.” The peculiarities of this earliest known culture in Egypt are : in flint, the swallow-tail arrowhead, delicate *vesica* tools pointed at both ends ; in pottery, the thinnest and hardest ware known, polished black, with the surface streaked by comb-dressing all over ; in beads, glazed steatite, garnet, and carnelian ; in painting, the use of long rectangular palettes, concave at the ends, with green malachite, and red haematite face-paint. All of these may be seen in the exhibition of the British School in Egypt at University College, Gower Street, open on July 5-26. There will also be shown more remains of the earliest human period known in Egypt, from the gravels of the eastern desert ; after further study, it is hoped to give some account of these.

Obituary.

CHARLES OBERTHUR.

BY the death, at the age of seventy-eight, at Rennes of the veteran naturalist, Charles Oberthür, workers in the study of insect life have suffered the loss of one whom personal tastes, the circumstances of life, and a persevering and enthusiastic character combined to make a conspicuous and leading figure among the fraternity of entomologists. As the printer and producer of his own works, Oberthür was able to give full scope to his conception of the requirements of entomological description and illustration. Similar ideals have presented themselves to others, but to few indeed has the opportunity been given to carry them out on so extensive and magnificent a scale. The splendid series of “*Etudes d’Entomologie*” and of “*Lépidoptérologie Comparée*” which emanated from his press at Rennes bear witness to his indefatigable labours in the advancement of his favourite pursuit, and to the liberal, one might even say the lavish, expenditure which he devoted to the worthy presentation of the results of his entomological studies. The beauty and accuracy of the hand-painted illustrations in these volumes have never been surpassed.

Though the order of Lepidoptera engaged most of his attention, Oberthür did much to further the subject of economic entomology, which he rightly recognised as being of high importance to an agricultural community such as that of the greater part of France. The material accumulated by him is of the greatest service to students of bionomics ; but to Oberthür himself the various topics offered by evolutionary problems, such as those of protective resemblance, mimicry, phylogeny and distribution, made little or no appeal ; nor did he concern himself with experimental investigation of the phenomena of heredity. But in his own line, and in the working out of his own methods, he was exceptionally efficient. Many have had occasion to be grateful for his kindly and helpful generosity.

PROF. FILIP POČTA.

WITHIN the past few months death has taken heavy toll among the professors of the Charles’ (Bohemian) University of Prague. On January 7 died Prof. Počta, professor of palaeontology and geology. He was born in Prague in 1859 and studied first in our University, then in Bonn, in the Musée d’Histoire naturelle in Paris, in the Lavalle Museum in France, and from there in Stockholm with Prof. Lindström. His first big work was a modern investigation of the sponges from the Bohemian calcareous formation, of which he studied not only the external form but also the interior skeleton, and this study he extended to sponges from Hungary, Dresden, France, and from the collection of the Bonn University. After this he studied the rudists and worked in the Sorbonne, the École de Mines in Paris, as well as in the British Museum. After the death of Prof. Novák he investigated the material which was left by Barrande, who intended to describe it in the eighth volume of his classical work, “*Système silurien du centre de la Bohême*.” For this purpose Počta made a great collection of illustrations of corals and Coelenterata, a collection which was, as regards execution, without a rival. He also deciphered for the first time the inner structure of the end chamber of Orthoceras. The first part of the eighth volume was published in 1894 and the second in 1902. Being originally a palaeontologist, he became later on a geologist. He published much in both sciences in Bohemian, German, French, and Magyar. Počta was a member of the Royal Society of Bohemia, of the Bohemian Academy of Sciences, of the Geological Societies of Paris, Berlin, and of other learned societies. BOHUSLAV BRAUNER.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. George Little, state geologist of Mississippi, 1868-72, and of Georgia, 1874-81, on May 15, aged eighty-six.

Prof. Charles Hunter Stewart, professor of public health, University of Edinburgh, on June 30, aged sixty-nine.