

of which many astronomers have proved the usefulness. But comets and meteors long had great attractions for the aged astronomer. It will be remembered that he was among the first to point out a connection between the April meteors and Comet I, 1861, and to direct attention to the fact that Biela's comet would explain the appearance of the Andromeda shower.

Galle remained at Breslau in full scientific activity until 1897, when he retired to Potsdam after a long life earnestly devoted to astronomy, the interests of which he did much to forward by his zeal and energy.

THE HON. CHARLES STEWART ROLLS.

IT is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death of the Hon. C. S. Rolls by an accident on Tuesday last, during the aviation meeting at Bourne-mouth. It seems that Mr. Rolls went up in his biplane for the alighting competition, and during the descent the newly fitted tail-piece of his *aéroplane* suddenly broke, and the whole machine collapsed and fell to the earth from a height of forty or fifty feet. Mr. Rolls was picked up unconscious and died almost immediately from concussion and laceration of the brain.

Charles Stewart Rolls was the third son of Lord and Lady Llangattock, and was born in 1877 and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. From his early youth he was deeply interested in things mechanical, and his brief career, so sadly brought to an end, shows how successfully he utilised his mechanical capacity.

Different from many men, Charlie Rolls, as his friends called him, when he set about doing anything, always entered deeply into the subject in a thoroughly scientific manner. Whether the object on hand was connected with cycling, ballooning, motoring, or aeroplaning, in the last two of which he was a pioneer, it was always the same, and his mind was continually bent on finding out the "whys" and the "wherefores," and improving the existing state of things. The thoroughness with which he was always associated was strongly brought to my notice in the many balloon trips that I made with him, and his inquiring turn of mind was often displayed when perched up aloft in the clouds. Perhaps the best example is instanced in the quiet manner in which he spent weeks in practising gliding before finally mounting the full-sized *aéroplane*.

It has been said of Rolls that he was born restless, and those who knew him know how true this description was. Yet he was never flurried, but always calm and collected. It was this trait in his character that probably made him so successful in his manifold ventures.

In the death of Rolls, Britain has lost her most daring and brilliant aviator, and his friends mourn the loss of a dear comrade. WILLIAM J. S. LOCKYER.

NOTES.

WE congratulate Sir William Crookes, F.R.S., on the new honour conferred upon him, namely, that of appointment to the Order of Merit, announced in the *London Gazette* of Friday last.

THE death is announced, at the age of forty-eight years, of Prof. Hugo Erdman, professor of inorganic chemistry in the Berlin Technical High School.

THE annual meeting of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons on Wednesday, July 20, Mr. A. J. Balfour presiding.

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THE *Globe* states that Herr Frick, who for many years has been engaged in exploration and scientific research, particularly in South America, where he studied the habits and customs of the Indian tribes, has been murdered by Indians in southern Bolivia.

THE death is announced in the *Athenaeum* of Prof. T. Zona, of the University of, and observatory at, Palermo; also of Prof. A. P. Sokoloff, formerly the holder of the chair of geodesy at St. Petersburg, and more recently the vice-director of the Pulkowa Observatory. Prof. Sokoloff retired from the latter position in 1905 in consequence of ill-health.

THE following officers of the Royal Society of Medicine were elected last week for the year beginning on October 1 next:—*president*, Sir Henry Morris, Bart.; *honorary treasurers*, Sir W. S. Church, Bart., and Sir F. H. Champneys, Bart.; *honorary librarians*, Mr. R. J. Godlee and Dr. Norman Moore; *honorary secretaries*, Dr. A. Latham and Mr. H. S. Pendlebury.

AT the annual business meeting of the Museums Association, held last week in York, Mr. H. M. Platnauer was elected president, and Messrs. C. H. Hunt and Deas vice-presidents. A resolution was adopted by the meeting expressing the desire that, in any revision of the grants-in-aid to provincial museums, the Board of Education would consider the advisability of continuing assistance towards the purchase of science objects.

AMONG the communications to be brought before the eighth International Physiological Congress at Vienna in September next are the following:—demonstration of method of testing colour perception spectrometer and demonstration of lantern test for colour-blindness, by Dr. Edridge-Green; the changes produced by radium in normal cells, by Dr. A. S. Grunbaum; and the summation of stimuli, by Drs. F. S. Lee and M. Morse.

THE thirty-ninth meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Toulouse on August 1 to 7. The president for the year is Prof. C. M. Gariel. Among the names of the presidents of the numerous sections, we notice the following professors of the University of Toulouse:—Prof. Emile Mathias, physics; Prof. Victor Paquier, geology; Prof. M. Leclerc du Sablon, botany; and Prof. Ch. Fabre, agronomy. M. Emile Marchand, the director of the Observatory of Pic du Midi, is the president of the section of meteorology.

THE annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference will be held at Cambridge on July 26 and 27. In his presidential address, Mr. F. Ransome will deal mainly with the cultivation of medicinal plants and with medicinal plant investigation. Among the subjects of papers promised for the meeting are:—the bacteriological testing of disinfectants; an insect pest in belladonna; the proposed essential oil monographs; phosphoric acid and ammonium phosphate; the limitations of water analyses reports, both bacterial and chemical; and note on the periodicity of the properties of the elements: new arrangement.

WE have been favoured with a copy of the preliminary programme of the fifth International Congress of Photography, which is to be held in Brussels on August 1 to 6 next, from which we learn that section i. (organised by the Société française de Photographie) will deal with photo-chemistry and the scientific applications of photography; section ii. (organised by the Association belge de Photographie), the technique of photography and the industrial applications of photography; and section iii.