EDWARD NETTLESHIP, F.R.S.

MR. E. NETTLESHIP, whose death on October 30 we have to deplore, was well known to the public as a distinguished ophthalmic surgeon, and to men of science as an enthusiastic worker on the subject of heredity. He was one of the six sons of Henry John Nettleship, solicitor, of Kettering. Three of his brothers became noted. The eldest, Henry, held the Corpus professorship of Latin at Oxford with great distinction. The second, John Trivett, was well known for his accurate and realistic pictures of wild animals, and was the author of the first serious study of Browning. The youngest, Richard Lewis, was a Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

Edward Nettleship was born in 1845, and after a preliminary education at Kettering became a student of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, and of the Royal Veterinary College. Though he qualified as a veterinary surgeon, he soon relinquished that branch, and studied at King's College and the London Hospital Medical Schools, taking the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1870. He specialised in ophthalmic surgery at a time when most ophthalmic surgeons still practised general surgery. He was appointed surgeon to the South London Eye Hospital, but his real life-work was carried out at St. Thomas's Hospital and the Moorfields Eye Hospital.

At St. Thomas's Hospital that remarkable personality, Liebreich, who still lives an artistic life in Paris, had laid the foundation of an ophthalmic clinic. Nettleship continued his work, and brought it to a state of perfection previously unequalled in England. At Moorfields he had been assistant to the late Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, where he rivalled his teacher and life-long friend in his enthusiasm for clinical work, and in his abounding inquisitiveness into the mysteries of eye diseases.

Papers full of acute observation and accurately authenticated facts came rapidly and continuously from Nettleship's pen. He thus built up a reputation which ranks with that of the greatest ophthalmic clinicians of the past—Mackenzie of Glasgow, von Graefe of Berlin, and Sir William Bowman of London, the founders of modern clinical ophthalmology. His magnetic personality attracted many of the best students to his side, and he thus founded a tradition for careful observation and accuracy of detail which is being carried on by his successors. He did not suffer fools gladly, and his somewhat brusque manner towards them kept his little band select, whilst it unfortunately aroused some enmity in those who had not the opportunity of testing intimately his sterling character and warm friendliness. He built up a very large private practice, one of his most distinguished patients being Mr. Gladstone, on whom he operated successfully for cataract.

About fifteen years ago Nettleship retired from practice and settled down in his country house at Hindhead. It was not a retirement to ease and luxury, but merely a deviation into scientific work little less laborious than his earlier work. He devoted himself especially to the study of heredity, and his painstaking and illuminating researches in this subject require no other testimonial than that they were rewarded by the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1912.

These are his greatest works, but he was full of lively interest in all that pertained to ophthalmology. Much of his time and energy was given up to colour-vision, and he did most valuable service as a member of the departmental committee of the Board of Trade on sight tests for the mercantile marine.

Mr. Nettleship was somewhat reserved, and only those who gained his confidence and learnt to know him well succeeded in penetrating to the fires of friendship which glowed within him. He has passed away, leaving behind him a record of work which lives and will continue to live.

J. HERBERT PARSONS.

NOTES.

AT the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on November 3, 1913, the following were elected honorary fellows:—Prof. Horace Lamb, F.R.S., professor of mathematics in the University of Manchester; Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., formerly director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr. G. E. Hale, director of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory (Carnegie Institution of Washington); Prof. Emil C. Jungfleisch, Mem.Inst.Fr., professor of organic chemistry in the College of France, Paris; Prof. S. Ramón y Cajal, professor of histology and pathological anatomy in the University of Madrid; Prof. V. Volterra, professor of mathematics and physics in the University of Rome; Prof. C. R. Zeiller, Mem.Inst.Fr., professor of plant palæontology in the National Superior School of Mines, Paris.

THE Physical Society's Annual Exhibition will be held on Tuesday, December 16, at the Imperial College of Science, and will be open both in the afternoon and evening.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made from Paris that Prof. Charles Richet, professor of physiology in the University of Paris, and member of the Academy of Medicine, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for science.

THE eighty-eighth Christmas course of juvenile lectures, founded at the Royal Institution in 1826 by Michael Faraday, will be delivered this year by Prof. H. H. Turner, F.R.S., his title being "A Voyage in Space."

THE brain of the late Prince Katsura, which, according to his wishes, has been removed to the Imperial University Museum in Tokio, was found to weigh 1600 grams—the same as that of Kant.

THE death is reported, in his seventy-ninth year, of Dr. P. R. Uhler, an American entomologist and geologist of repute. For three years he was an assistant to Prof. Louis Agassiz, at Harvard, and afterward explored parts of the island of Hayti for him. Since