

of the Lewis gun, the chief armament of our present military machines.

As General Henderson remarks at the close of his preface, Mr. Lanchester's book is well worth reading, and there is much in it worthy of study and reflection.

(2) The book by Mr. Robson can in no sense of the word be called a scientific work. It is a book for the "man in the street" who wishes to know a little about aircraft and about the organisation of our present-day air services. A great part of the discussion of the importance of the new aeronautical arm follows Mr. Lanchester's argument very closely, often in almost identical terms. There are many extravagant phrases in the book, as an example of which may be given the author's statement, in treating of the courage and resource of British airmen: "Germany could not wrest from us our ascendancy in the air even if she had ten times as many aeroplanes as we have." This is obvious exaggeration. Mr. Robson foresees the time, after peace is established, when aerial travel and transport will be the order of the day, and everyone of moderate means will possess his own private aeroplane. This seems to be going too far at the present stage of development, and only future experience can justify the prediction of such a brilliant future for aeronautics. The book can in no way be compared with Mr. Lanchester's work on the same subject, but it may prove useful to those who want a non-technical and popularly written outline of the present, and possible future, position of aeronautics in warfare.

E. F. R.

SIR GASTON MASPERO, K.C.M.G. (Hon.).

THE receipt of the news of the sudden death of Sir Gaston Maspero, whilst attending a meeting of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in Paris on Friday, June 30, has been received with keen regret not only by Egyptologists, of whose science he was the ablest and most competent living exponent, but also by archaeologists generally throughout the world. To his personal friends his death was not wholly unexpected, for during the last two years he suffered severely from acute illnesses at intervals, and his usually bright and cheery outlook on life was clouded by the bitter grief he felt at the loss of his nearest and dearest during the war. His brave spirit, however, clung to his work, and the last parts of the *Annales du Service* and *Recueil de Travaux* prove by his contributions to them that his great mental faculties and powers of work remained in effective condition to the end.

Maspero was born in Paris on June 23, 1846, and his family appears to have been of Italian origin. Little is known of his early years, but whilst still a boy he devoted himself to the study of Egyptology as expounded in the works of Chabas and de Rougé. His first important publication was a copy of the hieratic text of an Egyptian hymn to the Nile, edited from papyri in the British Museum, and accompanied by a French

translation; it appeared in Paris in 1868, when he was about twenty-two years old. He was greatly encouraged in his work by Mariette, who in 1854 had been commissioned by Saïd Pâshâ to found a museum of Egyptian antiquities at Bûlâk. In 1873 Maspero took the degree of Docteur-ès-Lettres, and soon after succeeded de Rougé as professor of the Collège de France. In 1878 Mariette proposed to the French Government to found an archæological mission, and, on the proposal being accepted, Mariette succeeded in obtaining the appointment of director for Maspero, who took up his duties in Cairo in 1880.

In the following year (January 17, 1881) Mariette died, and Maspero became director of the Bûlâk Museum. In a very short time he arranged the objects in the museum on a definite system, and the catalogue of them which he published formed a most valuable compendium of Egyptian archæology. That the book may still be read with pleasure and advantage is a great testimony to the literary skill and knowledge of its writer. Having arranged the museum, Maspero devoted himself to developing, throughout the country, the system of excavations which Mariette had begun, and to the completion of Mariette's unfinished editions of papyri, etc. The discovery of the royal mummies and of the necropolis of Panopolis, and the clearing of the royal pyramids at Sakkârah and of the Temple of Luxor are evidences of the activity of Maspero during the first period of his rule at Bûlâk. In 1886, for private reasons, Maspero resigned his directorship at Bûlâk and returned to Paris, where he devoted several of the best years of his life to the compilation of his monumental "Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient Classique," which appeared in three portly quarto volumes in 1895-99. A smaller work, bearing almost the same title, was published by him in 1875, and the number of editions through which it has passed attests its utility and popularity.

After Maspero's departure from Cairo in 1886 the management of the Egyptian museum fell into weak hands, and the scandal that attended the removal of the collections from Bûlâk to the Gizah Palace will not soon be forgotten by all who are interested in Egyptology. Matters went from bad to worse until British public opinion in Egypt demanded a change of director, and another Frenchman was brought to Egypt to preside over the Service des Antiquités. After two years it became evident that the scandals connected with the administration of the museum were increasing in frequency and magnitude, and at length Maspero was induced to return to Egypt and to resume the directorship of antiquities. This he did in 1899.

From 1899 to 1914 Maspero worked with a constancy and vigour which were marvellous. He directed and visited the excavations carried out by the Egyptian Government; he inspected the temples, and tombs, and other ancient buildings each year, spending some months in the process;

he directed the publication of the volumes of the official "Catalogue," which were compiled by English, French, and German experts; he edited the *Recueil de Travaux*, the *Annales du Service*, the "Mémoires" of the French archaeological mission in Cairo, and the *Bibliothèque Egyptologique*, and still found time to write his new books and to revise and re-edit long Egyptian texts. His management of the museum was broad-minded and liberal, and he did a great deal to popularise the collections in it by means of his "Guide," of which, alas! edition after edition has been published without an index!

Maspero's knowledge of Egyptology was colossal, and he was always ready to place it at the disposal of the expert as well as of the layman. He broke through the old rule of only allowing favoured investigators to excavate in Egypt, and often supported personally applications to dig made to the committee by comparatively unknown individuals. He was courteous and helpful to every honest inquirer, and, oddly enough, seemed to go out of his way to help most those who exploited his works and who most reviled his methods and belittled his learning. During the last two or three years of his career in Egypt his action in respect of the native dealers in antiquities was much criticised, and it provoked much angry comment both among natives and Europeans. But his friends knew that the mistakes he made were not due to incapacity or ignorance, but to failing health and overwork. He did his own work well, but in doing that of half a dozen other men he did some of it badly. No French official in Egypt was ever more liked and respected by the natives than Maspero, for they trusted him and regarded him as a friend, and they greatly appreciated his justness. In private life he was a delightful companion, and his stories of Oriental life and character were drawn from a fund of knowledge of the East which seemed to be literally inexhaustible. The charm of his conversation was great. His words were carefully chosen, though his expressions were often archaic and quaint, whilst the little mannerisms and gestures by which they were accompanied well suited the genial nature, the warm sympathy, and the kind-heartedness of the man. In both hemispheres his death will be greatly regretted. Maspero received the D.C.L. from Oxford in 1886, an honorary K.C.M.G. in 1909, and he was elected perpetual secretary of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in 1914.

E. A. W. B.

NOTES.

THE KING has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Earl of Crawford to be President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

THE Harben lectures for 1916, on "Rivers as Sources of Water Supply," will be delivered by Dr. A. C. Houston at the Royal Institute of Public Health, 37 Russell Square, W.C., on July 13, 20, and 27, at 5 p.m.

PROF. ARTHUR SMITHELLS, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in the University of Leeds, has received a

NO. 2437, VOL. 97]

special appointment for scientific service on the Staff at General Headquarters (Home Forces) with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and graded for pay as a Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General.

THE medical committee of the British Science Guild, under the chairmanship of Sir Ronald Ross, passed the following resolutions at a recent meeting: (1) The medical committee of the British Science Guild views with disfavour the suggestion that has been made by certain district councils to cease watering the streets as a war economy, and is convinced that such a step would be prejudicial to the public health. (2) The medical committee also views with great disfavour the pollution of the streets of London, and of most cities and big towns, by dogs, and considers that the attention of the Government and of municipalities should be called to the possibility of reducing the evil by increasing the tax on dogs and by enforcing by-laws. The committee considers that in towns the tax on one dog should be doubled and a large progressive increase imposed on each additional dog.

THE *Times* announces the death from wounds received in action of Lieut. C. G. Chapman, R.E., at the age of twenty-four. Lieut. Chapman, who had served in more than one of the theatres of war, was the son of Prof. R. W. Chapman, of Adelaide University. He was formerly in the Irrigation Branch of the Survey Department of the Australian Government, and had been in charge of surveying parties which did good work in the Northern Territory and the Daly River country. Since the outbreak of war, when he enlisted as a private, he took part in the survey of Lemnos for the Headquarters Staff, and afterwards passed through the Royal Engineers' School at Chatham.

ATTENTION is directed to the confusion that may be caused by the Summer Time Act in the Meteorological Office Circular, No. 1. In accordance with the Act, the use of Greenwich mean time is not interfered with for meteorological purposes, yet it is inevitable that, unless the standard of time used is always indicated in the record of observations, mistakes will occur, especially as the expression "local time" is often erroneously used as a synonym for the new "Summer Time." The scheme of hours of observation at meteorological stations is international in usage, and alternative schemes for winter and summer were never contemplated. The eight sets of observing hours are given in the Circular, and observers who cannot continue at the old hours are strongly recommended to select from the eight alternatives one which will be convenient both for summer and winter, and to change to that scheme once for all. A list is given of the observatories in the British Isles which have changed their hours of observation since the Act came into force.

A CONFERENCE organised by the Bread and Food Reform League on the national importance of utilising whole cereals in time of war was held in London on July 4. The Government was urged to make the use of whole cereals, especially whole wheat meal and 80 per cent. wheat flour, *i.e.* meal from which the less digestible woody fibre has been removed, much more general than it is at present. In this way it is claimed that not only would the national bread supply be considerably increased, but the public would be provided with a more substantial and nutritious food. The Government was further asked to take action to prevent the abstraction from cereal foods of the germ of wheat and of the strong gluten