operation. It is only fair to point out that such untoward accidents did occur from time to time when Jena glassware was used, but, broadly speaking, they were rare. It is, of course, too early in their career to pronounce upon the British manufacturers of these goods in this respect, and the matter is only mentioned here in the desire to impress upon them the extreme importance of this factor of uniformity and trustworthiness. Beautiful samples sent for exhibition and specimens sent for trial or test which behave extremely well may serve to initiate trade and to introduce the products, but only complete regularity and dependence will ever succeed in building up a permanent industry and trade in these goods.

PROF. H. H. W. PEARSON, F.R.S.

BY the death of Prof. H. H. W. Pearson, which occurred on November 3 at the Mount Royal Hospital, Wynberg, Cape Colony, South Africa is deprived of one of the ablest and most popular of her scientific men, and botanists have lost a colleague richly endowed with the qualities which go to make an ideal student of Nature.

Harold Henry Welch Pearson was born at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, in 1870; he was privately educated; after holding a teaching post in an Eastbourne school he entered the University of Cambridge as a non-collegiate student, and later became a member of Christ's College, where he remained until his election to the Frank Smart studentship, which necessitated migration to Gonville and Caius College. His Cambridge career was a series of successes: in 1899 he was awarded the Walsingham medal for work in Ceylon on the vegetation of the Patanas. In 1898 he was appointed curator of the Cambridge Herbarium, and in 1899 he joined the staff of the Kew Herbarium. In 1902 he was appointed professor of botany at the South African College, Cape Town, where he laboured with conspicuous success up to the time of his death. He was elected into the Royal Society in the present year. Though the double responsibilities of the professorship and the Botanic Garden were no light burden, Pearson enlisted as a trooper in a Local Defence corps.

Full advantage was taken of the splendid opportunities of exploration afforded by South Africa, and Pearson proved himself to be an explorer of the best type; he visited Damaraland four times, and in January of this year he wrote home from Windhoek after a particularly arduous journey undertaken with the fullest approval and support of General Botha. He also explored Namaqualand, Bushmanland, Angola, and other regions, always returning with valuable booty, of which he made the best use both by his own researches and by generous gifts to institutions and other botanists. Pearson's expeditions were readily assisted by scientific bodies, and especially by the Percy Sladen Trustees, whose liberal contributions were well earned and thoroughly appreciated. His first paper (1898) dealt with the anatomy of the seedling of the Cycad Bowenia, and in 1899 the Linnean Society published the results of his field-work in Ceylon. In 1902 he wrote on the double pitchers of a Dischidia.

Pearson's most important work is on Welwitschia and Gnetum; he not only greatly extended our knowledge of these Gymnosperms, but with conspicuous ability demonstrated the nature of the "endosperm," for which he proposed the term trophophyte. Pearson's more recent contributions have strengthened his position on the vexed question of the degree of affinity of the Gnetales to the Angiosperms. In one of his most recent letters Pearson referred to the MS. of a promised volume on the Gnetales as almost complete. Observations on South African Cycads, investigations on the common maize disease caused by the root-parasite *Striga lutea*, an account of the Thymeleaceæ in the Flora of Tropical Africa, a paper on the internal temperature of Euphorbia and Aloe, and well-written descriptions of travels illustrate the wide range of his activities.

The greatest service rendered by Pearson to South Africa was the part he played in the foundation of the National Botanic Garden, and it was his tactful and untiring efforts which led the Government to set apart about 400 acres on the Kirstenbosch estate, on the east side of Table Mountain, for a National Garden, of which he was appointed honorary director in 1913.

Pearson was a botanist of many parts, and a man who inspired affection in an unusual degree by his geniality, honesty of purpose, and boyish enthusiasm. He recognised the almost unlimited possibilities of botanical and economic developments through the Kirstenbosch Garden, and it is for his successors to do their part in carrying out the broadly conceived scheme of the first director. In a letter dated July, 1913, he wrote: "It will be a great burden, but it is worth carrying, even if it never falls to me to exploit its contents."

A. C. SEWARD.

PROF. HENRIK MOHN.

THE death of Henrik Mohn, on September 12 at Christiania, removes from the meteorological world a very well known and popular figure. Born at Bergen on May 15, 1835, he had completed his eighty-first year. He took part in all international assemblies of meteorologists from the commencement of the series of 1873 until the meeting of the International Meteorological Committee at Rome in 1913, when he excused himself on account of the long journey. Shortly afterwards he retired from his appointment as director of the Norwegian Meteorological Service and professor in the University of Christiania, which he had held since 1866. He maintained his scientific activity to the end of his life. His most recent work was the discussion of the meteorological observations of Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole, which was published in 1915. It displays remarkable ingenuity in giving a con-