

or, to be strictly accurate, the carrier of the disease, has been stamped out in the island.

The methods used for getting rid of the fly comprised:—(1) Clearing of vegetation, felling of forest, clearing of woodlands and secondary jungle growth, so as to admit light and air into the haunts of the shade-loving tsetse. (2) Drainage of swamps and clearing of the banks of streams. (3) Extermination of pigs, dogs, and cattle.

For the protection of those at work in the fly areas the Maldonado method of trapping the fly was adopted. The members of the fly brigade wore canvas, back and front, covered with a viscid preparation made in Reading. (It would appear to be composed, like fly-papers, largely of boiled linseed oil.) By this means at the beginning of the campaign as many as 500 flies could occasionally be caught by a single man in a day, and the average caught by the gang was about 17,000 a month in 1911, less than 6000 a month in 1912, while in the first three months of 1914 only 14 flies were caught by 297 men, and in the last nine months of the year none.

The mission is to be congratulated on the success of its efforts.

J. W. W. S.

#### CLEMENT REID, F.R.S.

THE death of Mr. Clement Reid on December 10 is a severe loss alike to geological and to botanical science. Born on January 6, 1853, Reid joined the Geological Survey in 1874, and began field-work in the south-west of England, but was soon transferred to the eastern counties. Here, in mapping the Cromer Forest Bed and other plant-bearing formations exposed on the coast, he entered upon the investigation of our Pliocene and Pleistocene flora, which thereafter he pursued with characteristic enthusiasm and ability throughout his life. Devising ingenious methods for separating out the seeds of plants from any material in which they lay hidden, he showed the significance of these inconspicuous fossils as indicators of past climate; and he soon became recognised as our leading authority on this subject. In the "Cromer" memoir of the Geological Survey (1882) he firmly established his capability both as an investigator and as an expositor. His next field-work was in Yorkshire, first on the north-eastern moorlands and then in the Holderness country, after which it was carried southward into Lincolnshire, the results being published in the "Holderness" memoir (1885). This done, he was sent to map the South Downs and the coastal tract of Sussex; and he worked westward thence through Hampshire and part of the Isle of Wight into Dorset and Wiltshire, describing this country in several more memoirs, published between 1898 and 1903. Meanwhile, he had also produced a collective "General" memoir on the Pliocene deposits of Britain (1890), during the preparation of which he visited Belgium and North Italy for the study of the equivalent deposits there.

Besides his official work, Reid had by this time

contributed many notable and widely discussed papers to scientific societies and periodicals, dealing mainly with the palæobotany of the later geological periods; with the climatal conditions indicated by geological formations; and with subjects in the debatable territory where geology and archaeology meet. In 1899 he summed up his knowledge of past botanical conditions in a book full of acute observation and suggestion, entitled "The Origin of the British Flora"; and, in 1913, he dealt similarly, in a small book, with our "Submerged Forests." His critical study of the fossil Characeæ, in collaboration with Mr. J. Groves, of which the first-fruits are in course of publication, has now been lamentably arrested.

In his later researches Reid was ably assisted by his wife (previously Miss E. M. Wynne Edwards), joint-author with him in his description of the interesting Pliocene flora of Tegelen, Holland, and in several other botanical and geological papers.

On his advancement to the post of district geologist in 1901, Reid was placed in charge of the Geological Survey work in Cornwall and Devon, and afterwards in the south-eastern district around London. On retiring from official duty early in 1913, he went to live at a chosen spot at Milford-on-Sea, overlooking the Solent, and died there, after a short illness.

In recognition of his work, Reid was awarded by the Geological Society the Murchison Fund in 1886, and the Bigsby Medal in 1897; and by the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, the Bolitho Medal in 1911. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1899. He served terms of office on the council of the Linnean Society and of the Geological Society, being vice-president of the latter from 1913 to 1916. He leaves a widow, but no children.

#### WILLIAM ELLIS, F.R.S.

FOR the third time in about six months the Royal Meteorological Society has to mourn the loss of a past president. Mr. William Ellis was born at Greenwich on February 20, 1828, and succumbed to heart failure on December 11 at Blackheath, having spent nearly the whole of his long life in the immediate neighbourhood of the Royal Observatory. His father, Henry Ellis, was an assistant there, and he himself began work there as a boy computer in 1841. After several years' experience as an astronomical observer, he left in 1852 to take charge of Durham Observatory, returning in 1853 when a vacancy occurred on the staff at Greenwich. He was attached to the Time Department, and soon afterwards had charge of it, including the galvanic batteries and circuits, but after eighteen years' superintendence of that work, and more than twenty years as a regular astronomical observer on the staff, he was transferred, on Glaisher's retirement, to the Magnetical and Meteorological Department, of which he was superintendent for nineteen years, until his retirement at the end of 1893, in which year he