

to its annual reports. His advice was duly appreciated and considered in framing legislation.

Dr. Hewitt was a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, and he received the gold medal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

By the death of SIR ROBERT MORANT at the early age of fifty-seven the Civil Service loses one of its ablest and most remarkable members. His great powers of organisation found full scope for their exercise when he was, in 1902, appointed Secretary of the recently created Board of Education. The appointment was well merited, for it was to his indefatigable industry in supplying material, to his skill in dealing with details, and to his ingenuity in overcoming difficulties that the Education Bill of 1902 was safely carried through Parliament. As permanent head of the Board of Education his restless energy and ceaseless activity bore down all opposition, and made him ready at all costs to carry out his own ideas. Organisation was indeed with him a ruling passion, and the smooth working of a complicated machine tended to become more important than the purpose the machine was intended to serve. During the ten years that he held the post of Secretary he served under five different Presidents, and the rapid succession of his temporary chiefs was not altogether unconnected with his own remarkable tenacity of purpose and skill in carrying it into effect. While his undoubted talents and magnificent powers of work have thus left their mark on the educational system of the country, it still remains to be seen if the vast and expensive machinery he called into existence will be more of a help than a hindrance in the development of our national education. In 1912, on the appointment of Mr. J. A. Pease as President of the Board of Education, Sir Robert Morant was promoted to the chairmanship of the English Commission formed under the National Health Insurance Act. He lived to see the early opposition to this Act gradually die away, and the Act itself become part of a great scheme of health legislation. To this Commission he devoted the same power of organisation and intensity of effort, and his early death is probably largely owing to his unsparing use of these great talents in the public service.—C. A. B.

THE death is announced of the veteran Italian botanist, DR. PIER ANDREA SACCARDO, emeritus professor in the Royal University of Padua. Born at Treviso in 1845, Prof. Saccardo joined the Royal Botanic Garden of Padua in 1866 as assistant director, and in 1878 became director—a post which he retained for the remainder of his official life. He was also professor of botany in the Royal University. He is best known for his systematic work on the fungi; his "Sylloge Fungorum omnium hucusque cognitorum" has been, since the publication of vol. i. in 1882, the working handbook of systematic mycology. Succeeding

parts or volumes appeared at intervals, the last, vol. xxii., in 1913; other eminent mycologists have co-operated in this great work. Prof. Saccardo also published numerous separate memoirs dealing with the fungi. His "Notæ Mycologicae" was a series of descriptive papers in various journals devoted to mycology from 1890 to 1916, when series xx. appeared in the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano*. But his activities were not limited to the fungi. Under the title "La Botanica in Italia" (1895, 1901), an exhaustive compendium of Italian botanists and their work from the Roman epoch onwards, he made a valuable contribution to botanical bibliography. In 1909 he contributed a supplemental volume to the "Flora analitica d'Italia" (by Fiori, Paoletti, and Béguinot), entitled "Cronologia della Flora Italia," a systematic list of the earlier records of the species of ferns and flowering plants, native or naturalised in Italy. Prof. Saccardo was also the author of a pamphlet, "Chromotaxia," on colour nomenclature, for the use of botanists and zoologists. In recognition of his eminent services to botany he was elected in 1916 a foreign member of our own Linnean Society.

WE regret to note that *Engineering* for March 5 records the death of MR. WILLIAM RICHARDS WILLIAMS on February 23. Mr. Williams studied engineering at the Royal Engineering College, Coopers Hill, and was appointed in 1887 assistant engineer to the Public Works Department by H.M. Secretary of State for India. His work in India was chiefly connected with irrigation. In 1901 he was appointed to the Irrigation Service in Egypt, and ultimately became Inspector-General of Irrigation, Lower Egypt. Mr. Williams had been a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers since 1906.

WE have received from Dr. Angel Gallardo, now president of the Argentine National Council of Education, a copy of his obituary notice of DR. F. P. MORENO in *El Monitor de la Educación Común* (Buenos Aires, December 31, 1919). Dr. Gallardo gives some account of Dr. Moreno's later work for education, to which we briefly referred in *NATURE* for January 15, and emphasises especially the importance of his efforts to provide for the children of the poorer classes. Among other institutions, Dr. Moreno established the Boy Scouts in Argentina. The notice is accompanied by an excellent portrait, which is, however, a little blurred in the printing.

WE much regret to see the announcement of the death, on March 13, in his seventy-eighth year, of PROF. CHARLES LAPWORTH, for many years professor of geology and physiography in the University of Birmingham.