

work, in addition to his university duties, proved beyond his strength, and brought about the breakdown which led to his early death, cutting short a career of great usefulness and promise. We are indebted for the details given above to an article in *Science* for October 22.

NATURALISTS interested in the marine and freshwater fisheries will regret to hear of the sudden death of SIR CHARLES E. FRYER at the age of seventy. Sir Charles Fryer was born in 1850, and entered the Civil Service, at the age of twenty, as Clerk to the Inspectors of Fisheries. In 1870 he became associated with Frank Buckland and Sir Spencer Walpole, and acted as secretary during the well-known inquiry into the natural history of the marine fisheries held during that and succeeding years. He had a unique knowledge of the history of the fishing industry and of the many inquiries that have been held with regard to its administration, and, though in no sense a man of science, he was keenly interested in all fishery biological questions—particularly with regard to the river fisheries. Sir Charles was due to retire at the beginning of the war, but continued to act at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries during 1915 and 1916. Many fishery naturalists will regret his death.

THE death, on August 20, at Mussoorie, India, of MR. FRANK MILBURN HOWLETT, at the early age of forty-three, is greatly to be regretted. Mr. Howlett represented a type of entomologist comparatively rare in this country, being particularly interested in the physiological aspects of his subject. Educated at Wymondham Grammar School and at Christ's College, Cambridge, he went out to India in 1905, and in 1907 joined the staff of the Pusa Research Institute, where he afterwards became pathological entomologist to the Government of India. Although his published papers are relatively few, they exhibit marked originality of ideas. His studies of the chemotropic responses of various Diptera attracted very wide attention, and subsequent research has demonstrated that they were the forerunners of a line of investigation which has a promising future. Mr. Howlett was also a capable athlete and a clever artist, but his activities suffered severely from ill-health during his Indian service.

THE brief announcement of the death of DANIEL PAULINE OEHLERT made to the Paris Academy of Sciences on October 11 will arouse in many British geologists a host of delightful memories, for he guided an excursion of the Geologists' Association through the beautiful country of Mayenne, as well as an excursion of the International Geological Congress. Than Oehlert and his accomplished wife, who shared his labours, no better guides could be found, for they had

surveyed the district for the Carte détaillée Géologique de France. Together also they published some sound palæontological papers, chiefly on Devonian fossils. Since the death of Mme. Oehlert some years ago, Oehlert had withdrawn from active geological work, and devoted himself to the museum of his native city, Laval. He was a fine man in body and in spirit.

THE death, on November 7, is reported, in his seventieth year, of DR. SAMUEL JAMES MELTZER, head of the department of physiology and pharmacology in the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research. Dr. Meltzer is best known for his discovery, in 1912, of an improved method of artificial respiration by which he was able to resuscitate persons whose hearts had stopped beating. Three years later he announced a successful treatment for tetanus, which consisted in the injection of a prophylactic dose of serum into the wounded patient, combined with the injection of a solution of Epsom salts into the spinal membrane, which produced complete relaxation of the muscles long enough for the serum to take effect. Dr. Meltzer was a native of Russia, was educated at Königsberg and Berlin, and went to America in 1883. At the time of his death he was president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and of the Medical Brotherhood.

*Science* of November 5 announces that PROF. ARTHUR SEARLE, Phillips professor emeritus of astronomy at Harvard University, died at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on October 23. Prof. Searle, who was born in England in 1837, and graduated from Harvard in 1856, became assistant in the Harvard College Observatory in 1869. He was appointed assistant professor of astronomy in 1883, and full professor in 1887, retiring in 1912 with the rank of professor emeritus. He contributed largely to scientific magazines, and in 1874 published a text-book of astronomy.

THE death is announced of DR. H. N. MORSE, professor of chemistry and director of the chemical laboratory at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Morse was born in 1848, and became associate at the Johns Hopkins University in 1876. He was the author of a number of scientific papers, among which may be mentioned communications on the atomic weights of cadmium and zinc, the preparation of osmotic membranes by electrolysis, and cells for the measurements of high osmotic pressures.

THE death of MR. CHARLES MCNEIL is recorded in *Engineering* for November 26. Mr. McNeil was born in Glasgow in 1847, and was the founder of the Kinning Park Hydraulic Forge, Glasgow. He was the inventor of the well-known manhole door which bears his name, and was elected a member of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1891.