

ance rarely left him without feeling that they had gained by hearing his opinion. The view which he took of the functions of the National Museum was a broad one. Its obvious purposes were to serve as a treasure-house for the accumulation of specimens and to educate students and the general public in all that pertains to natural history. But he thoroughly realised the importance of making it a centre of research, and there can be no question that his initiative was responsible for many new departures which have materially assisted in the advancement of knowledge. In his opinion, an institution supported out of public funds had the responsibility of giving practical service to the nation, and he welcomed opportunities of showing that this could be done. The consultative functions of the museum have been increasingly appreciated in recent years, and particularly during the war, a result largely due to his influence. Its advice has been repeatedly sought by other Government Departments in such matters as the protection of birds and other animals in our Colonial possessions, the part played by insects and arachnids in the spread of disease, and the extraordinary development of the whaling industry during the last fifteen years, in questions relating to fishery problems, and in many other practical applications of zoology, botany, geology, and mineralogy.

On many occasions Mr. Fagan was specially concerned in promoting scientific expeditions, among which may be mentioned those to Ruwenzori, 1907, and to Dutch New Guinea, 1909-11 and 1912-13, the collections in the museum being largely augmented in these ways. By his personal influence he was responsible for inducing private benefactors to present numerous collections and important specimens. He was hon. treasurer to the International Ornithological Congress in 1905 and to the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves, British representative on the International Committee for the Protection of Nature in 1913, and a member of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and of other scientific bodies. He organised the exhibits of the British section of the International Shooting and Field Sports Exhibition, Vienna, 1910, of the Festival of Empire and Imperial Exhibition (game fauna section), Crystal Palace, 1911, and of the British section, Ghent Exhibition, 1913, illustrating the relation of entomology to tropical diseases.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Fagan married Miss Stroaach, who died in 1905, and he leaves one son. His career was one long record of single-minded service, strenuously and successfully performed. His influence on the Natural History Museum, from the commencement of its existence as an independent branch of the British Museum, has left a permanent mark on its character. His disposition was essentially sympathetic, and he never permitted himself to express uncharitable opinions of others. He is deeply mourned by his

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many friends, and particularly by his colleagues, who recognised his lovable qualities and the great value of his services to the museum and to science.

SIDNEY F. HARMER.

C. SIMMONDS.

WE regret to announce the death, on January 15, of Mr. Charles Simmonds, one of the Superintending Analysts in the Government Laboratory. Born at Stourbridge in 1861, Mr. Simmonds was educated privately, and, selecting the Civil Service as a career, secured one of the chemical studentships at South Kensington established by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for training the staff of their laboratory, then at Somerset House. This was afterwards raised to the status of a separate Government Department under Sir Edward Thorpe as the first "Government Chemist." Mr. Simmonds was entrusted (*inter alia*) with the investigation into the composition of "Pottery Glazes and Fritts" for the information of the Royal Commission appointed to report on that subject, and contributed an article under this title to Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry, as well as several papers of a kindred nature to the Journal of the Chemical Society, viz. "Lead Silicates in relation to Pottery" (1901); "Constitution of certain Silicates" (1903); "Reduced Silicates" (1904); and (in conjunction with Sir Edward Thorpe) "Influence of Grinding upon the Solubility of Lead in Lead Fritts" (Manchester Memoirs, 1901). Mr. Simmonds was also the author of a treatise on "Alcohol," published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., which is admittedly the most up-to-date and comprehensive work in English on the subject, and he was up to the last a frequent contributor to the pages of NATURE.

MR. EDWARD C. BOUSFIELD, whose death is announced, received his professional training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and after qualifying spent a number of years in general practice, at the same time carrying out a good deal of research work in microscopy and bacteriology. He was one of the first to take up photomicrography, and published a useful manual on the subject. He afterwards established a clinical research laboratory, and became bacteriologist to the metropolitan boroughs of Camberwell and Hackney.

It was reported from Copenhagen on February 1 that the official Soviet Press Agency had denied the report of the death of Prince Kropotkin, whose obituary notice we published last week. We have been hoping that later messages would confirm this news; but a wireless Press report from Moscow states that Prince Kropotkin died there on Tuesday, February 8.