

LADY SHAW.

DEEP sympathy will be felt by a large section of the scientific world at the bereavement which Sir Napier Shaw has suffered by the death on September 22 of his wife, Lady Shaw, who was well known in scientific circles. Lady Shaw was for some time lecturer in mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge, and was the author of an original little book entitled "First Lessons in Observational Geometry," published by Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. in 1904. In this book, a course of observational and experimental geometry was outlined similar to that afterwards adopted in schools on the recommendations of committees on geometry as the best introduction to the formal study of the subject. Lady Shaw took a very active part in many organisations and institutions concerned with education, science, and progressive development generally. She was a member of council of Queen's College, London, and of the Women's Local Government Society. She served on several committees of the British Association, and was the secretary of the Citizenship Committee which has prepared and issued some valuable reports. Lady Shaw was also a member of Council, the Executive Committee, the Education Committee, and the Health Committee of the British Science Guild, and the members of these bodies, as well as all others associated with her, hold her memory in grateful remembrance.

PROF. W. ROSER.

PROF. DR. WILHELM ROSER, one of the directors of the Farbwerke vorm. Meister Lucius und Bruening in Hoechst-on-Main, died at Frankfort-on-Main on May 20. He was an important contributor to the development of the German industry of pharmaceutical products and coal-tar dyestuffs.

Prof. Roser came from an old-known Swabian family; his father, Prof. W. F. Roser, was an eminent surgeon of the University of Marburg, and there W. Roser

was born on January 30, 1858. At this University he first studied mathematics, a science to which he devoted his hours of leisure. Afterwards he changed over to the study of chemistry under the guidance of Zincke. After a short stay with Fittig in Tübingen, he returned to Marburg and received his doctorate in 1882 for a research upon terebinic acid. For his studies regarding phthalyl-derivatives he received the *venia legendi* in 1885, and researches concerning pyridine and quinoline derivatives enabled him to clear up the constitution of narcotine, an opium alkaloid.

After his nomination as a professor in 1892, the Hoechst firm engaged Prof. Roser as director of the scientific department of their works, at a time when the German chemical factories, having successfully produced acetanilide, phenacetine and antipyrine, were devoting themselves to the further investigation and production of medicines. Prof. Roser was able to direct this work with success. He took part in the elucidation of the constitution of adrenaline and in the synthesis of rivanol, while in the dyestuff branch he was also very successful. It was his main task to introduce young chemists who had come from the High Schools into the works, to the way of working and thinking necessary for technical practice. Several generations of technical chemists owe him their education. He himself was a taciturn man of keen observation and wide knowledge, highly esteemed by industrial chemists as well as by men of science.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Malcolm Fraser, late Registrar-General and Government Statistician of Western Australia, on September 17, aged sixty-six.

Dr. F. J. H. Jenkinson, since 1889 Librarian of the University Library, Cambridge, on September 21, aged seventy.

Prof. R. Pumpelly, formerly professor of mining geology at Harvard University, and for many years on the United States Geological Survey, on August 10, aged eighty-five.

Current Topics and Events.

It would appear that the protests which have appeared in the *Times* and elsewhere against the proposed erection of a wireless station at Avebury have been successful. Sir Charles Oman in his presidential address to the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, as reported in the *Times* of September 14, announced that he had received a letter from Sir L. Worthington Evans, the Postmaster-General, stating that the proposal would probably be dropped. Recent experience has made it clear that existing legislation for the protection of sites of archaeological importance is inadequate, while it affords no guarantee in the case of any site which is not scheduled under the Protection of Ancient Monuments Act. In the present instance, it is peculiarly disturbing that Government Departments were concerned in what can only be described as an act of vandalism. During the recent meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, reference was made to this matter on more than one occasion, and before the Association

dispersed, a resolution was passed which, while instancing the cases of Holmbury Hill, Avebury, and Lulworth Cove, urged strongly in general terms the extension of the powers which may be exercised in the protection of sites of natural beauty or archaeological interest.

THE use of pulverised coal is spreading steadily, and at the present time more than 20,000,000 tons per annum is being burnt in the United States and Canada alone, largely in the cement, iron and steel, and glass industries. Also the use of coal in a fine state of division is being considered in connexion with the manufacture of briquettes, low-temperature carbonisation, and total gasification processes, such as producer gas. The most striking progress, however, during the last three or four years has been in the use of pulverised coal for steam generation. Since 1920 some of the largest and the most important power stations in the world have adopted this method