

universities at home and abroad, and was an honorary member of a great number of learned societies throughout the world. He was president of the Society of Chemical Industry in 1895, and in 1921 of the British Association at its meeting in Edinburgh. This last occasion saw the beginning of his illness, for he was taken ill on arrival in Edinburgh, and was unable to deliver his presidential address on atomic structure, which was read for him by Sir Alfred Ewing.

It is only possible in the space left at my disposal to mention briefly Sir Edward's brilliant lecturing and literary ability. His early books, "Chemical Problems," "Inorganic Chemistry," "Quantitative Analysis," and "Qualitative Analysis," were used by thousands of students, while his great "Dictionary of Applied Chemistry," now appearing in a new edition, is a monumental work of the utmost importance to industrial chemistry. His biographies of Dr. Priestley and Sir Humphry Davy, the "Essays in Historical Chemistry," and his "History of Chemistry," are most readable and entertaining, as well as of scientific value, giving the personal touch which is so charming to the wonderful events in the evolution of modern chemistry. Finally, his "Yachtsman's Guide to Dutch Waterways" and "The Seine from Havre to Paris" are permanent records of a master yachtsman and valuable guides to later comers in the yachting world, whether their vessels be propelled by wind, steam, or petrol.

Sir Edward Thorpe thus passes from our ken in his eightieth year, full of honours as of years, and with a published record of scientific work which it is given to few scientists to achieve. He leaves no children, so that our sympathy will therefore go out in all the greater measure to his lifelong companion, Lady Thorpe, who has so devotedly watched over and cared for him, and made his home a paradise.

A. E. H. TUTTON.

#### MISS L. S. GIBBS.

MISS LILIAN SUZETTE GIBBS, the news of whose death at Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, on January 30, came as a shock to her botanical friends at home, had done good work both as an investigator in the laboratory and as an explorer in many parts of the world. After a two years' course at the Swanley Horticultural College, she entered the Royal College of Science as a student in the Department of Botany under Prof. J. B. Farmer. From that time onwards her life, which might have been one of leisure, was devoted to the pursuit of science. She became a research student at the College, and the value of her work was attested by the award of the Huxley medal and the prize for research in natural science.

Miss Gibbs became early interested in the floristic side of botany, and collected in the Alps of Switzerland and Austria. In 1905 she visited South Africa with the British Association and collected in Southern Rhodesia and at the Victoria Falls. But her great contribution to floristic botany was her work on the mountain flora of various parts of the world. Between 1907 and 1915 she visited successively the mountains of Fiji, Mt. Kinabalu in British North Borneo, the Arfak Range in Dutch North-west New Guinea, the Bellenden-Ker Range in Queensland, and the mountain plateaux of Tasmania. Each of these expeditions

formed the subject of a memoir—published in the *Journal of the Linnean Society*, the *Journal of Botany*, or the *Journal of Ecology*—in which she described her observations on the plant-formations, discussed questions of distribution of plant-life, and gave a systematic account (with the assistance of experts in some of the groups) of the very considerable collections which she brought back. A complete set of these collections is in the Department of Botany of the British Museum, where her floristic work was elaborated. She retained, however, her interest in structure and development, and her papers in the *Annals of Botany*, especially one on the development of the female strobilus in *Podocarpus*, based on her own collected material, are valuable contributions to this aspect of botany.

Miss Gibbs was a woman of strong personality, and keenly interested in the question of equal rights for her sex. She was one of the earliest women fellows of the Linnean Society and the Royal Microscopical Society, and was also a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. She had many friends, who deeply regret that her work is finished, and to whom her death comes with a sense of personal loss.

THE world of geography has sustained a serious loss by the death of Mr. John Bolton, which occurred after half an hour's illness on February 22. Mr. Bolton was in his eighty-third year, having been born in 1842. In 1857 he entered the service of Mr. Edward Stanford, the grandfather of the present head of the firm of Edward Stanford, Limited, and although of recent years he had only acted in a consulting capacity, his connexion with the firm was continuous until his death. Many leading cartographical works were produced under his direction, including the London Atlas series of maps, Stanford's 6-inch and 4-inch scale maps of London, and their series of library maps. In 1884 Mr. Bolton was appointed geographical expert to the Congo conference at Berlin, and in 1897 served on the Venezuela Boundary Arbitration, being loaned by the firm to the government for such service. He was a life member of the Royal Geographical Society, and attended regularly the meetings of the Geographical Section of the British Association, including the visit of the Association to South Africa in 1905. He was also a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute. In the course of his career Mr. Bolton had been associated with many famous men, including General Gordon, H. M. Stanley, Cecil Rhodes, Lord Kitchener, Capt. Scott, and Sir Ernest Shackleton. He possessed a personality that inspired confidence, and a geniality that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Adolph Kemna, corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London and formerly president of the Royal Zoological and Malacological Society of Belgium and of the Belgian Society for Geology, Palæontology and Hydrology.

Dr. C. Symes, president in 1897 and 1898 of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, on February 13, aged eighty-five.

Dr. A. de Watteville, for many years editor of *Brain* and distinguished for his work on the nervous system, on February 24, aged seventy-eight.