

organism described. But there is no slovenly work, and nothing written without purpose, responsibility, and accuracy.

Dendy was above all truthful in record. I have followed much of his work very closely in calcareous sponges, and I have never found the sign of anything described which I had reason to doubt had been seen. He was a beautiful draughtsman, and I have always considered that I could trust one of his drawings as if I had seen the specimen. Four or five years ago I questioned him as to certain details in his early illustrations (*a*) of the collar-cells of *Halichondria*, (*b*) of the pore-canal of *Leucosolenia stolonifer*. He showed me under the microscope the actual sections from which the drawings had been made, a third of a century earlier, and the fidelity was perfect.

Dendy's life's work as regards sponges was to accomplish a revised classification of the whole group and of their spicules. He was an evolutionist to the core, and believed in the evolutionary chain not only for all forms of sponges but also for all their spicules. His work, however, led him to the conclusion that it is impossible to consider the detailed form of spicules to be evolved for functional advantage to the sponge, and in the case of the two-discid spicule of *Latrunculia* he, in conjunction with Prof. J. W. Nicholson, gave a most important physical theory of the nodal position of the discs.

I have elsewhere expressed disagreement with his classification. But Dendy had investigated probably more forms of sponges than any one else has ever done, unless possibly Topsent, Hentschel, or Vosmaer. His works constitute a logical catalogue of their forms and of their spicules, illustrated almost entirely by himself with innumerable accurate drawings and accompanied by clear and careful description. He has made research on sponges easier for all who come after him; he has left order where there was much chaos.

Dendy enjoyed public discussion and hard hitting, given and received without disturbing private friendship. Veracity in record, swift work, accurate observation, clear description, untiring industry and enthusiasm for biological knowledge—these were his characters.

In ten years have died Minchin, Maas, Vosmaer, Dendy. The evening grows chilly.

GEO. P. BIDDER.

MR. THOMAS HUGH POWELL, who died in London on February 19, was a remarkable personality in the microscopical and photographic world. He devoted practically the whole of his life to the development and improvement of appliances in connexion with microscopes and photography, and, following in the footsteps of his father, Mr. Hugh Powell, was responsible for many progressive inventions. When Mr. Powell's father died in 1883, it was said of him in an obituary notice in the *Times* that he was the first optician in England to construct object glasses on Amici's "immersion" system. After making a considerable number of one-eighths, one-sixteenths, one-twenty-fifths, and one-fiftieths, he completed, with the assistance of his eldest son, who has just died, an object glass of this kind having a focal length of one-eightieth of an inch. The formula of the "homogeneous immersion" system was the subject of special attention on the part of Mr. Powell, sen., but failing health compelled him to rely on the efforts of

his son, by whom object glasses on this formula, having the highest apertures on record, were constructed. Mr. Powell was within a month of his ninety-third birthday at his death, having been born in March 1832. He was believed to be the oldest member, both in age and in length of membership, of the Royal Microscopical Society and the Quekett Microscopical Club, and displayed an active interest in his life-work to within a short time of his death.

WE much regret to record the death of Mr. Robert Standen, Senior Assistant-keeper in the Manchester Museum, who died on March 15, aged seventy-one years. He was born at Goosnargh, near Preston, and spent his whole life in Lancashire, forming one of the band of first-rate field naturalists who have done so much work on the fauna and flora of the north-west of England. He had wide knowledge and experience, and would have something of interest to say about most of the live things met with on a country walk, and to this he added a skilful museum technique and a scholar's knowledge of his special group—mollusca—on which he wrote many papers both on the British and, in conjunction with Dr. Cosmo Melvill, on foreign forms. In recent years he was active in promoting interest in neglected groups and quickly made himself an authority on wood-lice: here and everywhere he never grudged time and trouble spent on helping any one who asked for assistance. His services to natural knowledge were recognised by the M.Sc. degree which was conferred upon him by the University of Manchester in 1924.

THE issue of the *Physikalische Zeitschrift* for February 15 contains an obituary notice of Gustave Jaumann, professor of physics in the Technical School of Brünn, from the pen of his colleague Dr. E. Lohr. Jaumann was born at Karansebes in South Hungary on April 18, 1863, and was educated in Prague and Vienna. In 1885 he became assistant to Mach at the University of Prague, in 1893 professor of physics there, and in 1901 at Brünn, where he died suddenly on July 21, 1924. He published a number of experimental investigations on electric discharges and cathode rays, but is probably best known by his theoretical work, which is in great measure co-ordinated in his 1918 paper on the physics of continuous media.

THE editors of the *Journal of Genetics* inform us that they have received, with great regret, news that Mr. V. Issayev, of the University of Leningrad, has been killed in the Caucasus. The last number of that *Journal* contained a remarkable memoir by Mr. Issayev, giving the results of novel and curious experiments on grafting different species of *Hydra* together (noticed in *NATURE*, March 21, p. 438).

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. W. W. Rouse Ball, fellow and formerly tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge, on April 4, aged seventy-four.

Prof. Burt G. Wilder, professor of neurology and vertebrate zoology in Cornell University from 1867 until 1910 and afterwards emeritus professor, and president in 1885 of the American Neurological Association and in 1898 of the American Association of Anatomists, on January 21, aged eighty-three.