

which period it may be safely said that the College which he faithfully and effectively served underwent several threatenings, if not vicissitudes, thereby causing him anxiety which he did not hesitate to express.

The main interest of Barrett's middle and later life lay in the exploration of obscure human faculties, such as were not receiving attention from the majority of scientific men and were often cold-shouldered as mere surviving superstitions. He felt that in this unlikely milieu there lay hidden a grain of truth, which he set himself pertinaciously to find and enthusiastically to exhibit to others. He was in frequent touch with such other explorers in unpopular regions as Alfred Russel Wallace and William Crookes, and he never doubted that between them they had unearthed some genuine phenomena, which, though sometimes bizarre and apparently incredible, would ultimately be accepted by science, and might, he hoped, prove of moment to mankind. It was in this faith that he worked, and stimulated work in others. How far he was justified, posterity will know better than we. It must be made quite clear that many men of science deny all these asserted phenomena, and apparently do not consider them worthy of serious examination. That care and caution is necessary in such a region is well known, but even now there are several who have little or no doubt that a faculty of communion or communication between individuals exists which is independent of the recognised organs of sense; and of this faculty Barrett considered that he might hereafter be regarded as perhaps the chief discoverer. So far as I know he had no theory on the subject; he was content with observing and recording the facts, observed under what he considered adequate precautions against deception. He read a paper to the British Association at Glasgow in 1876 on what was later called telepathy, but the feeling of improbability about the reality of such a faculty was so strong that its publication was suppressed. He did, however, get a letter published in *NATURE* for July 1881, shortly before the foundation of the Society for Psychical Research.

Another inquiry, which he carried out in Dublin, related to the asserted Reichenbach phenomena, *e.g.* the sensitiveness of certain people to magnets. These experiments, though carefully conducted, led to no conclusive result, when all opportunity for suggestion and all normal clues were eliminated.

On yet another faculty he became quite an authority, namely, the faculty for finding water or other things by means of an unconscious physiological reaction, demonstrated usually by the twisting of a rod held in the hand. The possession of such a faculty can be pretended or imagined, but Barrett came to the definite conclusion that in certain persons it was real, and could be utilised.

Finally, Barrett enlisted the interest of many distinguished scholars, both in the British Isles and in the United States, in the search for unrecognised but traditional human faculties; and he had a stimulating hand in founding the Society for Psychical Research in London, with a branch in Dublin; and also a somewhat similar society in America, the latter being at one time presided over, no doubt in a reasonably incredulous spirit, by no less a person than Simon Newcomb; who probably held the opinion that

everything might legitimately be explored, and if necessary condemned, in the interests of truth.

On the personal side it must be admitted that some people found Barrett's quick eager manner unrestful, but every one recognised the transparent honesty and simplicity of his character, and could not help admiring the keenness with which, right up to the end, he was ready to undertake any labour to get phenomena properly observed and recorded. Correspondents from all over the world must have sent him tales of extraordinary happenings, and a winnowed selection of these he contributed from time to time to the Proceedings of his special Society. With its slow and cautious methods he was often impatient, urging greater enterprise and activity, but he accepted its presidency for a year, and continued on its Council to the end.

Barrett's domestic life was of the simplest. Through most of the years his sister kept house for him, until 1916, when, to his extreme happiness and content, he married the distinguished surgeon and gynæcologist Mrs. Florence Willey, M.D. It was at her house that he died, through heart failure, in full possession of his faculties except his sense of hearing. He loved life, but, as his books show, he regarded the continuance of existence, in some still personal form, as almost if not finally demonstrated. Death did not seem to him an interrupter of mental continuity.

So has passed over one who served truth to the utmost of his ability, whose researches brought him into personal contact with all sorts and conditions of men, one who was not deterred by ridicule or opprobrium from following such clues as he could find; yes, and if his chief interest is ever universally recognised as well founded, one who will be hailed and respected by posterity as a pioneer. OLIVER LODGE.

FATHER A. L. CORTIE, S.J.

FATHER ALOYSIUS LAURENCE CORTIE, S.J., who died on May 16, was born in London on April 22, 1859. He had thus attained the age of sixty-six years. His cheery genial ways left the impression of his being a much younger man, and he will be mourned by a wide circle of friends who enjoyed his companionship in his merry moods and valued it in his more serious moments. He was educated at Stonyhurst, and having joined the Society of Jesus at Roehampton in 1878, he was ordained priest in 1892. For thirty years, with but little intermission, he was on the staff of Stonyhurst College teaching physics and mathematics, and he was also director of music for nineteen years. He was a very popular teacher, and the hold which he gained on the affection of the boys was maintained throughout his life, for he continued by correspondence in touch with his old pupils in all parts of the world. No Stonyhurst gathering was considered complete without Father Cortie. His songs and his quaint stories were equally welcome. His quick sense of humour enabled him to pick out many a local episode, which he would recount in the Lancashire dialect to the great amusement of his hearers. He was in great demand as a popular lecturer on astronomical subjects, and as his humorous touches seemed to give almost as much amusement to himself as to his audience, his call on their interest and sympathy was irresistible and met with immediate response.

Father Cortie took a large share in the work of the Stonyhurst College Observatory during the directorship of Father Sidgreaves (1890-1919), and he became director in 1919 on the death of Father Sidgreaves. His astronomical work was in large measure connected with the relation between the phenomena of sunspots and terrestrial magnetism, and he contributed many papers to the Royal Astronomical Society and to the *Astrophysical Journal*; among them were a number relating to stellar spectra, a subject to which Father Sidgreaves had devoted much attention.

Father Cortie, carrying on a tradition started by Father Perry, took part in several expeditions to study the phenomena presented in total eclipses of the sun. He travelled to Vinaroz (Spain) in 1905, to Vavau, Tonga Islands, in 1911, and to Hernösand (Sweden) in 1914, to make observations of eclipses. He had but poor luck in the earlier expeditions, but in Sweden he observed the eclipse "in absolutely perfect weather conditions" and obtained not only valuable spectroscopic observations but also beautiful photographs of the corona, one of which is well reproduced in the Report of the Stonyhurst College Observatory for 1914.

In 1891 Father Cortie was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and for many years he served on the council of the Society. He was an active member of the British Astronomical Association, which he joined in 1894; for eleven years (1900-1910) he was director of the Solar Section of the Association,

and in that capacity he was responsible for many reports on solar work. He was president of the Manchester Astronomical Society since 1911. In 1922 he was made a member of the International Astronomical Union's Committee on the Solar Atmosphere and attended the meeting of the Union at Rome in that year. After the meeting he received an honorary degree at Padua on the occasion of the seventh centenary of the foundation of the University. Quite recently he had been elected president of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. A. G. Butler, late senior assistant keeper of the Natural History Museum and distinguished as an entomologist and ornithologist, on May 28, aged eighty years.

Dr. John Mason Clarke, State geologist and palæontologist and director of the State Museum and Science Division of the Education Department, New York, a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, and foreign member of the Geological Society of London, sixty-eight years of age.

Prof. Giovanni Battista Grassi, Senatore del Regno, distinguished for his work on the transmission of malaria, on May 4, aged seventy-one years.

Prof. C. K. Wead, an examiner in the United States Patent Office and formerly professor of physics in the University of Michigan, who was known for his work on physical and musical acoustics, aged seventy-six years.

Current Topics and Events.

THE Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, for the investigation of problems of animal nutrition, has been fortunate in receiving funds from private sources. Two years ago Mr. W. A. Reid, of Aberdeen, endowed the Library and Statistical Department. The Institute has now received a gift of 10,000*l.* from Mr. Duthie Webster to support the work of an experimental stock farm. Mr. Webster, who is an Aberdeenshire farmer, is the nephew of the late Mr. William Duthie, of Collynie, who earned world-wide fame as a breeder of beef cattle. The farm is being established in accordance with recommendations made by Prof. T. B. Wood, Director of the Animal Nutrition Institute at Cambridge, and Dr. J. B. Orr, Director of the Rowett Research Institute, in a joint report which, at the request of the Agricultural Council, was drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. One of the sections of that report emphasised the desirability of having in Great Britain one or more experimental stock farms where the results of research work, which appeared of probable economic value, could be tested on a large scale, under practical conditions. In the report it was recommended that such a farm should be established in connexion with the Rowett Research Institute.

THE scheme, which is now being carried out at the Rowett Research Institute, makes provision for departments dealing with milk cows, beef cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, and it is intended that each department will have as its head a worker who, after having been trained in research in nutrition, will devote

himself entirely to the study of practical problems connected with the nutrition of the kind of farm animals in his department. The establishment of this experimental stock farm in connexion with the Rowett Research Institute is an important development in the scheme of research in agriculture, promoted by the Development Commission some years ago. It will enable the results of work, the full significance of which can only be understood in scientific circles, to be presented in a form intelligible to those engaged in the industry of animal husbandry. The results of large scale-feeding experiments carried out under practical conditions, should be of interest not only to stock breeders but also to those engaged in research, whose experimental work has to be confined of necessity to tests with small laboratory animals.

THE recent Conference on the Standardisation of Plate Testing Methods, inaugurated by the Royal Photographic Society, appointed an influential committee to consider its work in detail and to draw up a report for submission to the coming Paris International Congress on Photography. The report of the Committee is published in full in the Society's Journal for June. The Committee recommends a standard illumination of 4-metre candles obtained by the use of a 15-20 c.p. standardised metal filament lamp used at a colour temperature of 2360° K., this having the same colour as the Eastman Kodak acetylene flame. For exposure it recommends a non-intermittent exposure mechanism and a time scale, intensity remaining constant. When uniformity in the developer is desirable, it recommends the pyro-soda formula of Hurter and