

the author has only nebulous ideas about the text upon which he comments, and that the elaboration of the text for meteorology is an inductive enterprise of the most embarrassing character. At the same time, he knew that there is no short cut: no ingenuity can produce a substitute for the inductive co-ordination of the real facts of the circulation. Hence the Meteorological Institute at Upsala, an academic establishment with no responsibility for any *réseau* of stations, became a centre of illumination and learning for the Scandinavian countries, and typical of a college for the meteorology of the globe, a nucleus round which effective knowledge of meteorology may crystallise with a rapidity as surprising and as beautiful as the laboratory experiment which furnishes the analogy.

Like some other meteorologists, Hildebrandsson began as a physicist and he remained a physicist to the end; but it is clear from the records of his work that he recognised the true basis of the science of meteorology to be neither physics nor geography alone, but a combination of the two. NAPIER SHAW.

MR. THOMAS STEEL.

By the death of Mr. Thomas Steel in Sydney on August 17 last, Australia has lost an enthusiastic and observant naturalist. His publications include descriptions of Australian land planarians and notes on their habits. Mr. Steel was born in Glasgow in 1858, and after training as a chemist entered the service of a sugar refinery in Greenock. In 1882 he was appointed chemist to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Sydney. Much of his spare time was devoted to the study of the fauna of New South Wales and of Victoria, and he accumulated a large collection of excellently preserved specimens, especially of land planarians and

Peripatus, many of which he gave to the Australian Museum and others to his zoological friends in Great Britain. Mr. Steel was a prominent member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, and was president in the years 1905-7.

PROF. S. J. JOHNSTON.

PROF. S. J. JOHNSTON has not long survived his former chief, Prof. W. A. Haswell. Johnston joined the staff of the Department of Zoology in the University of Sydney in 1906, and soon became known as a stimulating lecturer and demonstrator in the practical classes. His memoir on the Trematodes of Australian frogs gained for him the doctor's degree in 1912. On the retirement of Prof. Haswell in 1918, Johnston was appointed to succeed him, but his health soon failed and he resigned at the beginning of 1922. He died on July 16.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. H. Bekker, secretary of the Natural History Society (*Rerum Naturae Investigatorum Societas*), at the University of Tartu (Dorpat) in Estonia.

Dewan Bahadur Lewis Dominic Swamikannu Pillai, president of the Madras Legislative Council, and author of "An Indian Ephemeris, A.D. 700 to A.D. 1799," and other works on Indian calendar systems and chronology, at sixty years of age.

Capt. H. Riall Sankey, past-president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, an authority upon steam and gas engine problems, and consulting engineer of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., on October 3, in his seventy-second year.

Sir William Schlich, F.R.S., formerly professor of forestry, University of Oxford, and inspector-general of forests, Government of India, on September 27, at eighty-five years of age.

Current Topics and Events.

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Prof. W. Carmichael M'Intosh, F.R.S., emeritus professor of natural history in the University of St. Andrews, who celebrates his eighty-seventh birthday this week, having been born on October 10, 1838. Time has dealt kindly with this veteran of science, as all must have noticed who, in London, this summer, came in contact with his engaging and breezy personality. A pioneer of research in fishery problems, he was the first to found a marine biological station in Great Britain. Elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1877, Prof. M'Intosh received a Royal medal in 1899, at the hands of Lord Lister, then president, in recognition of his labours as a zoologist. Earlier (1869) the Royal Society of Edinburgh awarded him its Neill prize for his paper "On the Structure of the British Nemertean, and on some New British Annelids." President of the Section of Biology of the British Association, Aberdeen meeting, 1885, he discoursed at some length on the phosphorescence of marine animals. Last year Prof. M'Intosh received the Linnean medal allotted especially to mark the Linnean Society's admiration for the single-hearted devotion and unremitting industry with which he had engaged in the study of the animal inhabitants of the sea. Oppor-

tunity was taken to congratulate him on the completion of his great "Monograph of the British Marine Annelids," published by the Ray Society. We understand that Prof. M'Intosh has been a fellow of the Linnean Society for sixty-two years, whilst being second in seniority amongst the whole body of fellows, in point of election.

NEITHER students nor staffs have much enthusiasm for the speech-making incidental to the formal occasions of academic bodies; but few of us, happily, are really immune from the infection of ideas, and the flood of formal oratory serves a variety of purposes, mostly good. The London Medical Schools have just experienced such a flood on the opening of their winter session. Prof. Buckmaster, at St. George's, referred to his own student days half a century ago, when the microscope was not of much service to medicine and practically no students possessed one. Some specialists may be found who declare that the days of the microscope are now over: probably a partial and propagandist view. But ten years are enough to cover the latest revolution in medical outlook, for the rise of physiology to its present dominating position is scarcely older. Sir Charles Sherrington, speaking at the London (Royal Free Hospital School)