

MR. C. M. DOUGHTY.

WE regret to record the death on January 20 of Mr. Charles Montagu Doughty, the famous traveller in Arabia and poet, at Sissinghurst, Kent, at eighty-two years of age. Mr. Doughty was born on August 19, 1843, at Theberton, Suffolk. He was educated at Portsmouth, and later, on failing to enter the Navy, with which he was closely connected through his mother's family, he went to King's College, London, and Caius College, Cambridge. He took his degree, however, from Downing, to which he had migrated from Caius, obtaining second-class honours in natural science (geology) in 1865. During his career as an undergraduate he had shown a taste for antiquarian exploration, which he continued after taking his degree, spending some years in travelling and study. In 1866 he published a short pamphlet on the Jøstedal-Brae glaciers of Norway, where he had spent a year as an undergraduate. In 1870 he went to Holland, where he acquired Dutch and Danish, thence to Italy, Spain, and Greece, crossing over to Palestine a year later.

In 1876 Doughty began his journeys in Arabia upon which his reputation as a traveller and scholar chiefly depends, and for which he had prepared himself by familiar intercourse with the Arabs and expeditions to Egypt, the Sinaitic peninsula, and Petra. He had been attracted by accounts of Nabathæan and Himyaritic monuments at el-Hejr, near Medain Salih. Disguised, but not very successfully, as an Arab, under the name Halil, he set out with a pilgrim caravan from Damascus in 1876, and for nearly two years he was alone among free Arabs, living their life in the desert and in the

oases. From the notes made by him the first chart of the superficial geology of the Arabian peninsula was compiled, and he first described the main hydrography of the northern half of the peninsula in communications to *Globus*; but he had become interested in the life of the people, and it is this side of his studies which gives the attraction and value to his great work, "Travels in Arabia Deserta," which was not published until 1888, and then only in a comparatively limited edition.

Partly owing to the fact that his interests were diverted into other channels, recognition of the great value of Doughty's work came late. In 1908 Oxford made him a Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*. A little later Caius College elected him an honorary fellow, and in 1920 his University of Cambridge gave him an honorary degree. In 1912 he received the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society, and in 1922 he was elected an honorary fellow of the British Academy. It was, however, only during the War that his work came fully into its own, his book being made the chief guide and work of reference for our military and political staff operating in Arabia.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Walter D. Hunter, chief of the section of insects affecting southern field crops of the Bureau of Entomology of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who was known for his work on the cotton boll weevil, on October 13, aged forty-nine years.

Mr. B. N. Peach, F.R.S., formerly district geologist on H.M. Geological Survey, on January 29, aged eighty-three years.

News and Views.

AN article on "Primitive Law and Order" by Dr. B. Malinowski, which appears as a Supplement to this issue of NATURE, raises broad questions of vital interest to anthropological investigation and theory. Taking as his starting-point some of the social and economic activities of the natives of the Trobriand Islands, Dr. Malinowski has asked what is the binding force, the sanction, to use the legal phrase, responsible for their punctual and faithful performance. The conventional answer of current theory he finds by no means satisfactory. The communistic ideas which have been attributed to the Melanesians do not cover the facts. Dr. Malinowski has no difficulty in showing that the "communistic canoe" is, as a matter of fact, not communistic at all. Nor is any greater measure of reality to be attributed to the unquestioned obedience which primitive man is supposed to yield to custom backed by taboo and religious belief. Primitive man is no less unscrupulous than his civilised brother in evading his obligations if he can do so with impunity. Dr. Malinowski has put his finger on an inconsistency between theory and fact which has appealed to some, at least, both in the field and in the study. It has given rise to an uneasy feeling that an observer, not necessarily superficial, may have found by unconscious selection among the multifarious activities of the daily life of a primitive people, very much what he set out to seek. An apparently hasty conclusion has inevitably

followed. Dr. Malinowski has attacked the problem by a new method and from a new point of view. He has taken certain concrete cases in primitive economics and social organisation and, by a searching analysis of the facts, shows that the conditions are such that no terms such as 'communism' or 'individualism' can be considered appropriate. The relations of individuals engaged in any economic or social activity depend upon a system of mutual obligations or reciprocities which might be regarded as something analogous to a system of 'civil' as opposed to 'criminal' law. Those who follow Dr. Malinowski's convincing argument can scarcely fail to endorse his plea for the application of his method and point of view to fields other than that in which he has employed them himself.

IN 1885 a forest school for the training of the upper subordinate staff of the Indian Forest Service was established at Dehra Dun. In 1906 the Forest Research Institute was inaugurated during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty. It was placed at Dehra Dun and the old school was given the status of a college, and courses were instituted for training members of the Provincial Forest Service. Research work proceeded slowly at first, since no accommodation was available. Grants were made and a fine Research Institute building was opened in 1913, it being considered at the time that ample accommodation had been