

to copper which had appeared as an appendix to his edition of the Ptolemy text referred to above.

In 1906, while excavating at Oxyrhynchus, Grenfell broke down through overwork. Though he recovered for a time, he broke down again in 1908, the year he was elected first professor of papyrology at Oxford, and it was only intermittently that he was able to resume work after that date. In 1913 he was appointed honorary professor of papyrology. He was an Hon. Litt.D. of the University of Dublin, and Hon.D.Jur. of Graz, corresponding fellow of the Munich Academy, member of the Academia dei Lincei, and Drexelmedallist of the University of Pennsylvania.

THE death of the eminent French entomologist the Abbé J. J. Kieffer occurred on December 30 last. For many years he was on the teaching staff of the College of St. Augustin at Bitche in Lorraine, where he devoted himself largely to entomological research. His earlier work was concerned with the taxonomic study of gall-making Diptera and Hymenoptera, but latterly he turned his attention to the Chironomidæ and became the foremost European authority on the family. His

most enduring contribution is his "Monographie des Cecidomyides d'Europe et d'Algérie" (1900), which contains a wealth of biological and anatomical information, and is profusely illustrated. His death leaves a gap in the ranks of the few students of the difficult and obscure groups of insects among which he laboured so assiduously.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Harry Brookes Allen, emeritus professor of pathology in the University of Melbourne, and president in 1908 of the Australasian Medical Congress, aged seventy-one years.

Dr. J. T. Bottomley, F.R.S., for many years Arnott and Thomson demonstrator (experimental physics) in the University of Glasgow, and the author of elementary text-books on dynamics and hydrostatics and of papers on the thermal conductivity of water, permanent temperature of conductors, etc., on May 18, aged eighty-one years.

Prof. L. A. Herdt, professor of electrical engineering at McGill University, Montreal, and president of the Canadian National Committee of the International Electro-technical Commission, aged fifty-three years.

News and Views.

It is gratifying to note that a serious effort is being made in the United States to assist the development of research in pure science, and in that land of dollars, concentrated energy, and munificent benefactors we have little doubt that the scheme adopted by the National Academy of Sciences will meet with the success it deserves. The general purpose of this scheme is "to increase and strengthen American contributions to the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences by the creation of a national fund to aid skilled investigators." Universities and other higher institutions will be expected to co-operate by assuring complete sympathy with research, by relieving the professoriate from the excessive demands of teaching and administration, and by providing all necessary laboratory accommodation and facilities. The endowment fund which has now been launched, and by means of which it is hoped to raise twenty-five million dollars, will be controlled and administered by a board of trustees consisting of Mr. Herbert Hoover, as chairman, and twenty-five well-known public men, including some of the foremost scientific workers. In a brochure recently issued by the National Academy of Sciences, the trustees declare their conviction that the funds at present available for the support of research in pure science are far below what the population, education, and material resources of the country demand. The United States already occupies a leading position in industrial research; it should rank with the most enlightened nations in the advancement of pure science.

RUSSIA affords a field for research in so many important branches of knowledge that any indication of a revival of interest in scientific matters among her people is of more than local moment. Under the Empire the study of the archæology, ethnology, and

cultural history of the vast territory included within its boundaries was actively pursued, but unfortunately the results were not made widely known. Publication was much delayed, and comparatively little appeared in languages other than Russian. It is possible that under the Soviet Government conditions may be changed. It would appear at any rate that there is a strong desire to encourage the continuation of the scientific work which was carried on under the old regime and even to extend it. As an example, we may mention the development of the regional survey. The extent to which this form of activity has been encouraged and the proportions it has now assumed are described in a paper by Prof. P. D. Schmidt, of Leningrad, which was read at a meeting held in London in September last to celebrate the tercentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and is now published in the *Sociological Review* for April. The movement began in 1921, when a Congress was held on the initiative of the Academy. A central bureau was organised in January 1922 at Leningrad with a branch at Moscow. By March 1923 there were 231 societies with 285 museums, 21 biological stations, and 16 natural reserves or parks, and in June 1925 it was estimated that there were more than a thousand institutions dealing with regional surveys. The museums have proved the most successful feature and are very popular among the peasantry; but a great deal of original work has been done in biology, geography, archæology, and the study of local history and culture, and most centres publish a periodical dealing with these activities.

MACHINE design has made during the last century enormous developments and shows no signs of having reached a standstill, but the designer as a rule considers primarily the work to be turned out by the