

the range of soundings by free balloons to that height, and beyond. By the proper choice of balloons that should be possible.

Another line of attack is also open. We are familiar with the fact that, during the War, gunfire was heard regularly at distances exceeding 100 miles. Why should not similar observations be made systematically in peace time? I should like to inquire whether gun practice at Portland is heard in South Wales. If there is any quiet spot in that region where the sounds are heard frequently, observations should be timed and, with a little organisation, valuable information would

be obtained. The advantage of frequent observations of this kind as compared with the occasional 'big bang' is obvious.

Since this article was written I have had an opportunity of testing the possibility of timing the passage of the sound of gunfire. Listening at Grantham on June 28 for the discharge of guns at Shoeburyness, 115 miles away, I found that the time of passage increased gradually from 10¾ to 11¼ minutes and then began to decrease. Details have been published in the *Meteorological Magazine* for August.

Obituary.

DR. J. F. HALL-EDWARDS.

WE regret to record the death on August 15, at the age of sixty-seven years, after many years of suffering due to extensive X-ray injuries, of Dr. J. F. Hall-Edwards. He was educated at King Edward's School and at Queen's College, Birmingham, and after qualifying in medicine he went into practice. Soon after the discovery of X-rays, Dr. Hall-Edwards took up their application in medical work and was one of the earliest authors in radiography. He served in the South African War as surgical expert in X-ray work to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals at Deelfontein and Pretoria, receiving the Queen's medal with four clasps. In spite of disabilities which might well have deterred him from any further executive work, he applied for and received a commission as temporary Major in the R.A.M.C. at the outbreak of war in 1914, and served in a radiological capacity to such effect that official recognition of his services was made on two occasions. He was an honorary member of the Röntgen Society and the author of several original papers in the journals of this Society and of the

Electro-therapeutic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Dr. Hall-Edwards made a great fight for many years against the insidious damage which he had suffered when using X-rays in his medical work. Like other pioneers he suffered because protective methods were unknown. His services in the public cause which so unhappily affected him, were recognised by the award of a Civil List pension in 1908, and later, in 1922, he received the Carnegie Hero Trust Medallion with an annuity.

S. Russ.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:—

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, for forty years president, and since 1909, president emeritus of Harvard University, who was largely responsible for raising Harvard to its present high position among the universities of the world, on August 22, aged ninety-two years.

Dr. D. E. Flinn, formerly medical inspector of the Local Government Board, Ireland, editor of the *Health Record* and author of works on public health and hygiene in Ireland, on August 18, aged seventy-six years.

News and Views.

SIR ARTHUR EVANS'S paper on "The Shaft Graves of Mycenæ and their Contents in Relation to the Beehive Tombs," which was read before the Anthropological Section of the British Association at Oxford, was something in the nature of a bomb-shell, of which the effects will be far-reaching. The relation of the great beehive tombs at Mycenæ, which were found empty of their sepulchral contents, to the shaft-graves, so rich in sepulchral relics, found by Schlieman within an extension of the Acropolis wall, has always been a puzzle to archaeologists. Sir Arthur's paper revived a theory, first put forward by Prof. Gardner and arrived at independently by himself, that at a time of danger the royal burials had been transferred from the mausolea outside the walls to a site which could be included within the enceinte. This theory has not found favour among archaeologists, and the view generally held is that the two classes of tombs correspond to earlier and later dynasties at Mycenæ. Mr. Wace recently has carried the matter further and suggested that the two finest shaft-graves, the "Treasury of Atreus" and the "Tomb of

Clytemnestra," belong to the latest groups, making them contemporary with a time when the Palace of Knossos was in ruins and the civilisation of Crete on the downward path. Sir Arthur Evans's latest discoveries render this theory untenable. He has found decorative sculptures, not later in date than the end of the Third Middle Minoan period and in vogue about 1700 B.C., which run parallel with those of the façade of the "Atreus" tomb. Vases characteristic of the same epoch were found in the "Tomb of Clytemnestra." He was able to demonstrate archaeologically that the finest of the beehive tombs belong to the same date as the earliest elements in the shaft graves, and that both are equally Minoan. On this view their culture, with the exception of certain intrusive barbaric elements, can no longer be regarded as a 'mainland' culture and, as Sir Arthur pointed out, the term 'Helladic' as applied to it becomes a misnomer.

SIR FREDERICK KEEBLE, Sherardian professor of botany in the University of Oxford, has accepted an