

of the Biologische Versuchsanstalt since its beginning (1902), he was given the post of state-adjoint when this institution was taken over by the Viennese Academy of Sciences, and remained in this post from 1914 until 1923. He then applied for his pension, and undertook lecturing tours to many European states, and twice to North America. Last year he was called to Moscow, where he was appointed to a chair in the State University and was entrusted with the erection of a laboratory for the biological department of the Moscow Academy. However, in a moment of mental depression, he deemed himself not able to undertake this task and shot himself on the Hochschneeberg, near Vienna, on September 23.

Kammerer's work will without doubt secure him a lasting place in the memory of biologists, even if some points in his papers require further elucidation and are still open to criticism. His scientific investigations were mostly published in the *Archiv. für Entwicklungsmechanik*. They apply to experimental modification of animal form, colour, and function, to their behaviour in subsequent generations, to regeneration and age, symbiosis, and the crossing of species. Kammerer's first studies were in pœcilogony or the modifiability of gestation in the same species. For his discoveries of this phenomenon in *Salamandra atra* and *S. maculosa* he was awarded the Sömmering medal for the year 1909 by the Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft in Frankfurt-am-Maine. The president of this society, Prof. A. Knoblauch, had himself undertaken the task of repeating some of these experiments (*Zool. Garten*, 45, n. 11, 12, 1904). Kammerer later extended his studies on pœcilogony to *Hyla*, *Alytes* (1906), *Proteus* (1912), and *Lacerta* (1910, 1925). Summarising the results, we may say that external factors, especially temperature and moisture, may modify the reproductive process in amphibians and reptiles in such a manner as to shift it in the direction taken by other species living in localities with a corresponding climate.

For many years Kammerer was occupied with the adaptation of amphibians, reptiles, and other animals to the colour of the background. He showed that *Salamandra maculosa* is capable of changing its colour after metamorphosis according to the colour of light reaching its eyes (1913), and that this slow morphological colour-change evolves from the quick physiological colour-change in the larvæ (1922). These results, often doubted, have been confirmed from different quarters (see Przibram a. Dembowski, 1922; *A. f. Entom.* 50, 108; Biedermann in *Ergebnisse der Biologie*, 1, 1925; MacBride, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 3, 983, 1925). Succeeding several times in raising *Proteus*, Kammerer had the opportunity, in his experiments on pœcilogony and colour-change, to test the dependence of the eye on light, a question to which he was able to give a positive answer (1912). He also proved the restoration of the power of vision (*Pflüger's Archiv.*, 1913). The possibility that these specimens with enlarged eyes may have been mutations was later discarded even by the originator of this explanation, Jacques Loeb, in his last book, "The Organism as a Whole" (1916), as highly improbable.

Kammerer exhibited his most remarkable specimens

to the Linnean Society of London, and in Cambridge, during the year 1923. The honour he was shown during his visit to England was one of his most pleasant recollections. Even if Kammerer's proof of the inheritance of acquired characteristics may be held to require confirmation, it is not too much to say that no one else has made greater advance towards the solution of this fundamental question, and that his numerous papers include several very important contributions to biological science. Results confirmatory of his views have been obtained by Dürkhen (1924) and Heslop Harrison (1925), who worked entirely independently of Kammerer, and on totally different animals. Kammerer's last paper on the origin of the island-races of *Lacerta* in the Adriatic (1926) is one of the finest contributions to the theory of evolution which has appeared since Darwin.

PROF. ALEXANDER GUTBIER, Rector of the University of Jena, died suddenly on October 4 at the age of fifty years. We learn from the *Chemiker Zeitung* that Prof. Gutbier was a native of Leipzig. He became professor of chemistry at the Technische Hochschule at Stuttgart in 1912, and ten years later he succeeded Prof. Knorr at Jena, where he built up an efficient modern chemical institute, in which numerous valuable researches in analytical and colloid chemistry were carried out. His own publications dealt chiefly with investigations of tellurium, selenium, and the noble metals, with atomic weight determinations, and with colloidal metals and protective colloids. He also published several works on practical chemistry.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

His Honour Sir John Bucknill, Puisne Judge of the Patna High Court, formerly editor of the *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union* and author of works on the birds of Surrey and of Cyprus, on October 5, aged fifty-three years.

Prof. J. D. F. Gilchrist, professor of zoology in the University of Cape Town, and president in 1922 of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, aged sixty years.

Mr. George Lewis, who devoted the greater part of his life to the study of the Coleoptera, and particularly the Histeridæ, visiting China, Japan, Ceylon, and Algiers, on September 5, aged eighty-seven years.

M. Edouard Naville, fellow of King's College, London, and a foreign associate of the Institute of France, distinguished for his archæological work in Egypt, on October 17, aged eighty-two years.

Mr. Washington A. Roebing, engineer and builder of the Brooklyn Bridge, on July 21, aged eighty-nine years.

Mr. Oberlin Smith, an authority on the pressing and stamping of metals, and a past president of the American Institute of Mechanical Engineers, on July 18, aged eighty-six years.

Mr. Charles Turner, for many years principal of the Manchester School of Pharmacy, who made many contributions to our knowledge of the freshwater algae, on September 10, aged sixty-two years.