

Obituary.

GENERAL SIR CHARLES WARREN, K.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., F.R.S.

GENERAL SIR CHARLES WARREN, the distinguished soldier and archæologist, died on Jan. 21, in his eighty-seventh year. Born on Feb. 7, 1840, he was educated at Cheltenham College, Sandhurst, and Woolwich, passing into the Royal Engineers in 1857. He had a distinguished career both as technical officer and as a military commander in South Africa and Egypt. He commanded a column in the Boer War, and was afterwards in command of the troops at the Straits Settlements.

Like his fellow soldiers, Gordon, Kitchener, Watson, and Wilson, Warren was greatly interested in research in Palestine. This brought him into touch with the founders of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and from 1867 until 1870 he conducted excavations at Jerusalem and made a reconnaissance of Palestine on behalf of that Society. Notwithstanding much opposition on the part of the local authorities and the difficulty of raising funds, he accomplished valuable work. This bore fruit in a number of publications. He was author of part of "The Recovery of Jerusalem: Underground Jerusalem," 1876, "The Temple and the Tomb," 1880, and the Jerusalem volume of the Survey of Palestine, with a portfolio of plates and excavations (1884). He had also devoted much attention to the question of ancient standards of measurement, and published "The Ancient Cubit and Weights

and Measures" in 1903, and "The Early Weights and Measures of Mankind" in 1914. His connexion with the Palestine Exploration Fund continued throughout his life and he was for some years a member of the committee. This association had brought him closely into touch with Sir Walter Besant, secretary of the Fund. With him he founded the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons, the object of which was masonic research, and Warren became its first Master.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. W. M. Chauvenet, consulting chemist and mining engineer, who worked at the chemistry of ores and at structural and mining geology, aged seventy-one years.

Dr. Karl Hell, emeritus professor of general chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Stuttgart, who died on Dec. 11, aged seventy-seven years. He was the author of numerous publications in organic chemistry.

Dr. Herbert A. Howe, dean of the college of liberal arts at the University of Denver and director of the Chamberlin Observatory at the University, who was known for his work on the positions of nebulae and on comets and asteroids, aged sixty-eight years.

Mr. Daniel Irving, president in 1904 of the Institution of Gas Engineers, and chief engineer for many years of the Bristol Gas Company, on Jan. 12, aged seventy-one years.

Mr. John Webster, senior scientific analyst to the Home Office, who had published several papers on arsenical poisoning and on the toxicology of salvarsan, on Jan. 20, aged forty-nine years.

News and Views.

BEFORE publishing in NATURE of Jan. 8 the article by Capt. C. J. P. Cave on "Popular Long-Range Weather Forecasts," we sent an advance proof to Lord Dunboyne, whose fifty-day forecasts are published in the *Daily Mail* and formerly appeared in the *Field*. Lord Dunboyne desired to reply to the article but found himself unable to do so, and he therefore entrusted his case to his brother, Capt. the Hon. R. P. Butler, whose article appears elsewhere in this issue, together with Capt. Cave's comments upon it. Having now devoted a fair amount of our congested space to the subject we think no more can reasonably be expected, and our readers may safely be left to form their own conclusions upon the evidence which has been placed before them. We are, of course, glad to give Lord Dunboyne credit for a desire to discover principles by which long-range weather forecasts may be secured, and we should be sorry to discourage him or any one else working to achieve this aim. We must point out, however, that the appropriate place to present such principles is a scientific society, like the Royal Meteorological Society, where they would be discussed by people best able to express a judgment upon them. It is of no use to say, as Sir Theodore Cook, the editor of the *Field*, does, in a letter to us, that while Lord Dunboyne contributed the forecasts to the columns of that journal he received "the most satisfactory letters from farmers and correspondents

of every kind in all parts of England." Science is not concerned with belief when processes of Nature are involved, but with evidence; and no principle or theory ought to be recognised in scientific fields unless it can survive critical discussion. When Lord Dunboyne's methods and results are submitted to such a bar of competent opinion, we shall be glad to render a further account of them.

OUR leading article of Sept. 4, 1926, on Prof. Graham Kerr's presidential address to Section D (Zoology) of the British Association at Oxford, has moved Mr. George H. Bonner to return to the subject of the advantages of a classical education in the *Nineteenth Century* for January. The author excuses himself for attempting to revive "so hoary a subject" on the ground that the question of the rival merits of 'classical' and 'scientific' is among the most vital that can be propounded, and that when the subject is thoroughly analysed it may appear that only the fringe has been touched and the real reasons for a preference overlooked. Education, as Mr. Bonner conceives it, is to confront the mind with truth in such a manner that it is immediately recognised and becomes a conscious possession. Broadly speaking, the line of argument taken is that science being confined to observed facts and 'laws,' which are merely theories subject to change with the advance