

used in future arguments in reference to the mechanism of conductivity, if only as providing a standard from which deviations can be measured. On the other hand, it is equally clear that all such arguments will henceforth be dominated by the theory of interionic attraction, in one form or

another. The Faraday Society is therefore to be congratulated on having secured so lively a discussion of the subject. This discussion, with the twenty-seven papers circulated before the meeting, will provide the basis for a most valuable report.  
T. M. L.

### Obituary.

DR. ABRAHAM LEVIN.

THE tragic death of Dr. Abraham Levin on April 20, within a few minutes of leaving his laboratory at Plymouth, deprives physiology of a young and brilliant worker. A man of versatile talents, he showed from an early age a remarkable mechanical ingenuity and an extraordinary aptitude for engineering. This subject he studied in Rome, but long-continued ill-health, exaggerated in later years by privation during the Russian revolution, prevented him pursuing this study further. He therefore turned to other less exacting activities and studied music at Kieff with great success.

At the outbreak of War, Levin took up the study of medicine at the Crimean University at Simferopol, where he took his M.D. Prof. Gurvitch recognised his ability and made him his assistant. His mechanical bent resulted in the invention of a highly ingenious sphygmometer. Being able to come to England in 1924, his tireless mental energy found an ideal outlet in research with Prof. A. V. Hill at University College, London, and at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth. Levin's mechanical ability here stood him in the greatest service and enabled him to perform many beautiful experiments on the viscosity and elasticity of muscle and on the action current in nerves, as his published work shows.

Unfortunately, much of Levin's work is not yet finished; he died in the middle of a series of experiments on the action current in Crustacean nerve, which promised to yield results of the highest importance to the theory of nervous conduction and excitation. He was a man of the highest promise in his field of research, and his early death is a very great loss. C. F. A. P.

THE issue of the *Physikalische Zeitschrift* for Feb. 15 devotes twelve pages to the obituary address delivered in the hall of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt at Charlottenburg on Dec. 18 by Dr. F. Henning, following on the death on Sept. 19 of his friend and colleague Dr. C. F. L. Holborn, head of the Heat Section of the Reichsanstalt. Dr. Holborn was born at Göttingen on Sept. 29, 1860, and after attending the local Realschule entered the University in 1879, and passed the government examination for teachers in 1884. He elected not to teach, but entered the Observatory as assistant to Schering in the terrestrial magnetism department, and in 1887 took his doctor's degree with a dissertation on the daily variation of the magnetic elements. In 1890 he joined the Reichsanstalt as assistant and rose gradually to be head of the Heat Section.

No. 3001, Vol. 119]

For a time in 1924 he acted as director of the establishment, and the date of his retirement from office was put three years later than the usual age of sixty-five years. His work on the temperature scale and on the thermal properties of gases has proved of great value for both science and industry.

WE regret to record the death of Sir Philip James Hamilton-Grierson, who died suddenly on Monday, April 25, at Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, at the age of sixty-six years. He was educated at Cheltenham College and Merton College, Oxford, taking his degree in 1876. A member of the Scottish Bar, he held a number of legal appointments in Scotland, was knighted in 1910 and received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1920. In addition to editing a number of legal works, he was the author of several articles which appeared in *Hastings' Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics*, but his most important contribution to scientific literature was "The Silent Trade: A Contribution to the Early History of Human Intercourse," a valuable book in which he brought his legal training to bear upon the facts and underlying principles involved in primitive systems of economics and exchange.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. A. W. Brightmore, engineering inspector at the Ministry of Health and formerly professor of structural engineering at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, on April 20, aged sixty-two years.

Dr. W. Collingridge, formerly Medical Officer to the Port of London and the City of London, on April 29, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. W. H. Dall, palæontologist of the U.S. Geological Survey since 1885 and honorary curator of the Division of Mollusks of the U.S. National Museum since 1869, on Mar. 27, aged eighty-one years.

Mr. E. T. Dumble, consulting geologist in Texas and formerly State geologist, who contributed notably to our knowledge of the economic geology of the Pacific slope, on Jan. 27, aged seventy-four years.

Dr. Charles E. Marshall, director of the graduate school and professor of microbiology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on Mar. 20, aged sixty years.

Prof. C. C. Nutting, professor of zoology in the State University of Iowa, and vice-president in 1902 of Section F of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who was known for his work in marine systematic zoology, and particularly on the Cœlenterata, on Jan. 23, aged sixty-eight years.

Prof. E. H. Starling, F.R.S., Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society and formerly Jodrell professor of physiology in the University of London, on May 2.