

five years, he was appointed to the chair of botany in Sydney, where he not only secured the erection of a new Institute, the opening of which took place on Nov. 6, 1926, but he also built up a school of botany, with a large and growing body of students, and a highly creditable list of published researches.

Lawson's own published work falls into three groups, relating respectively to cytology, to the gametophyte of Gymnosperms, and to that of the Psilotaceæ. The first memoir on the pollen mother-cells of Cobæa formed the thesis for his degree. Already that delicacy of pencil craft was revealed which marks all his later work. Few microscopists have combined more effectively than he did refined cytological method with artistic skill. This was the first of a series of memoirs relating chiefly to meiosis, which were continued until 1912. They are characterised rather by faithful record of detail than by the establishment of new points of view. Armed thus with exact laboratory experience, he carried through a long series of observations of the gametophyte and propagative processes in the gymnosperms. These will stand as a permanent record of patient research, by an observer of high technical skill. They opened while he was still instructor at Berkeley: they were continued during the period of office in Glasgow, and later in Australia, where they related chiefly to local genera, such as *Microcachrys* and *Pherosphaera*. The last of this series was a particularly fine memoir on *Bowenia*, published in 1926, with eight plates (*Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, vol. 54). At the time of his death, a further memoir on *Macrozamia* was already well advanced. His illustrations from the earlier of his memoirs on the Gymnosperms have been very widely absorbed into Lotsy's "*Stammes-Geschichte*," vol. 3. No one can in the future treat the Gymnosperms generally without frequent reference to the wide observational work of Lawson.

Lawson left his mark also in a third line of inquiry: in 1917 two memoirs appeared on the gametophytes of *Psilotum* and *Tmesipteris*, so long awaiting discovery. It is true that the ground has since been covered in greater detail for the latter by Holloway, and in particular in the embryology: but that need not detract from the exact delineation and description given of their gametophytes. Lawson had also wide interest in the Algae. He had collected with Setchell on the Aleutian Islands and on the coast of California. He made a special journey to collect them on the Jamaican coast, and he was well posted in the British marine Algae. But he appears never to have published upon them.

While it must be conceded that Lawson's work has been detailed and analytical rather than constructive, we should bear in mind that he was still a comparatively young man, and that the last twelve years have been devoted to the establishment and consolidation of a school of botany in Sydney. As they stand, his numerous memoirs have added substantially to the sum of positive knowledge. They may not have formed new patterns in the web of the science, but they have filled many of its blanks, not only with artistic effect, but also with honest and trustworthy

records. It will be a pleasure to his friends to remember that the Royal Society of Edinburgh recognised the merit of his work, so largely published in its *Transactions*, by the award of the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize. A deeper satisfaction will be felt in the fact that the inclusion of his name in the recent list of selected candidates for fellowship of the Royal Society was published in time for him to have been aware of this high distinction, and to receive the congratulations of his many friends in Australia, though his death has occurred before the date of formal election. F. O. B.

PROF. ADOLF MIETHE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC science has suffered a great loss in the death, on May 5, of Regierungsrat Dr. Adolf Miethe, professor at the Technische Hochschule in Berlin-Charlottenburg. Prof. Miethe was born in Potsdam on April 25, 1862, and studied physics, astronomy, and chemistry in Berlin and Göttingen. After working with Prof. Hartnack in Potsdam, and then with Schulze and Bartels in Rathenow, he became director of Voigtländer und Sohn in Braunschweig, leaving this position in 1899 to become professor at Charlottenburg as successor to H. W. Vogel, the discoverer of the sensitising action of dyes on the photographic emulsion. According to the *Photographische Industrie*, Miethe was responsible for the teaching of scientific and practical photography in all its branches, photo-mechanical methods, spectral analysis, optics, and astronomy. He was also well versed in botany, mineralogy, and other subjects.

Miethe was the first to construct anastigmats, the name of which is due to him. He improved opera and field glasses, invented, with Gaedicke, magnesium flashlight photography, and introduced the isocyanine dyes as optical sensitisers for the photographic emulsion. It was due to his efforts that great advances were made in the three-colour collotype process. During the last year or two Miethe's name has been brought more prominently into general notice by his claim to have transformed mercury into gold, a claim which, however, has not been satisfactorily substantiated.

Miethe was prolific as a writer and was very successful in presenting scientific knowledge in such a form that it was readily understood by the general reader. Several books dealing with photographic subjects came from his pen.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. J. Barnard, formerly senior mathematical master at Christ's Hospital, both in London and after its removal to Horsham, aged seventy-six years.

Sir Sidney Colvin, formerly Slade professor and director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum, on May 11, aged eighty-one years.

Dr. Maurice F. FitzGerald, emeritus professor of civil engineering in Queen's College, Belfast, on May 4, aged seventy-six years.

Prof. J. S. Nicholson, until recently professor of political economy in the University of Edinburgh, on May 11, aged seventy-six years.