

Dr. MacGregor Skene. "By-Products of Plant Activity." In the Philosophical Hall.

Children's Lectures:

Mr. Kingdon Ward. "Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World." In the Albert Hall.

Dr. Clarence Tierney. "Nature's Secrets," with

cinematograph illustrations. In the Majestic Cinema.

Citizen's lectures have also been arranged in Pontefract, Batley, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Otley, Keighley, Wakefield, Shipley, Castleford, Guiseley, and Brighouse.

Obituary.

SIR BRYAN DONKIN.

BY the death, on July 20, at the ripe age of eighty-two years, of Sir Horatio Bryan Donkin, the world has lost a sane psychologist and a clear and rational thinker. My first meeting with him was in the middle 'eighties, when he was dean of the Westminster Hospital, and I learned to appreciate his sterling qualities when, in my third year, I became his ward clerk. This was during what may be termed the first half of a life spent in the useful service of mankind, for he not long after forsook the practice of physic for a Government official position. As a teacher of medicine Donkin was not only clear and precise in his methods, but also possessed a broad outlook upon the duties of a physician which was in strong contrast with that of some of his colleagues on the hospital staff. To one who was mindful of the limitations imposed by medical tradition, this made work under his guidance a pleasure as well as a duty. It was my privilege in later life to realise still further the value of his friendship. The second part of his life was fully occupied by his duties as H.M. Commissioner of Prisons, duties which he took very seriously. Bringing to the post his deep knowledge of medicine and his very kindly nature, he succeeded in introducing more than one salutary reform in prison organisation. He was not one to whom the prisoner was merely a 'bad lot'; he regarded him rather as a patient, and he was, with the late Dr. Mercier, one of the pioneers of the valuable work which has been done in the psychology of crime. He was medical adviser to the Prison Commission, and in 1910 delivered the Harveian oration of the Royal College of Physicians upon the subject of the inheritance of mental characters.

A well-deserved knighthood honoured Donkin's retirement at an age when many men prefer to rush out in such quiet enjoyments as, in their consideration, their remaining years permit. He, however, possessed the mind which refuses to become hide-bound with age. He knew how to keep young in mind and body, and he elected to do fighting work for what he considered to be the right. To his straightforward mental outlook and his uncompromising rationalism, everything which savoured of charlatanism and humbug, or was the result of inaccurate and loose thinking was anathema, and he never hesitated to speak and write exactly as he thought. Possessed of a ready pen, his trenchant criticisms upon such subjects as psycho-analysis and various hasty and irrational reforms were characterised by a clearness of argument that made them difficult to controvert. To young writers he was ready of help, and his

kindly advice was always acceptable. His loss to the cause of rationalism (he was a member of the Rationalist Press Association) is one which will be felt, and his name will be remembered by all with whom the quest of truth is a thing that matters.

MACLEOD YEARSLEY.

THE issue of the *Physikalische Zeitschrift* for June 1 contains an account of the life and work of the late Prof. F. Exner of Vienna from the pen of his pupil and colleague Prof. H. Benndorf. Franz Exner was the youngest of the five children of F. Exner, professor of philosophy at Prague, who was called to co-operate with Count Thun in the reform of Austrian education in 1848. He was born in Vienna in 1849 and lost both his parents at an early age. He was a pupil at the gymnasium at Vienna from 1860 until 1867, when he entered the University under Stefan, who although director of the physical institute had no assistants and only a miserable supply of instruments. After two years at Vienna he spent a year under Kündt at Zürich, where his brother was lecturer on Roman law. On his return to Vienna he graduated as doctor in 1871. After acting for two years as assistant to Kündt at Strasbourg, he became lecturer and assistant to von Lang at Vienna and in 1879 professor extraordinary. In 1891, on the death of Loschmidt, he became ordinary professor, and in 1907 Rector of the University. The new physical institute he designed was opened in 1913. He retired at the age limit in 1920 and died in Vienna on Nov. 15, 1926, aged seventy-seven years. During his tenure of the professorship the University of Vienna produced a large number of physicists, who now occupy most of the chairs of physics at Austrian universities and the lectureships at high schools. Of his own researches, those on atmospheric electricity are probably best known; but he also did valuable work on spectroscopy, on colour vision, and on the voltaic cell.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. B. B. Boltwood, professor of radio-chemistry at Yale University since 1910, who did noteworthy work on radium and radio-activity, aged fifty-seven years.

Dr. William Burnside, F.R.S., late professor of mathematics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, on Aug. 21, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. E. B. Titchener, Sage professor of psychology in the Graduate School at Cornell, New York, editor for many years of the *American Journal of Psychology* and American editor of *Mind*, on Aug. 3, aged sixty years.