

activity or his interest in ordinary pharmacology. He delivered his regular course on pharmacology, in a language newly acquired in middle life, served as a member of the commission for revising the Dutch pharmacopœia, and was one of the most active members of the two International Conferences on Biological Standards. In connexion with the latter he supervised important investigations on the standardisation of pituitary extract and digitalis, and made himself responsible for preparing the international standard sample of the latter. His laboratory, quite apart from its achievements in neurology, maintained a steady output of good pharmacological work. There lie on my table, at the time of writing, lectures on "The Experimental Pharmacology of the Lungs" and on "Choline as an Intestinal Hormone." These were two of the five which he had written for delivery in America on a visit projected for next year, and he had sent them to me for a final retouching, scarcely needed, of their English idiom. Presumably he had pressed himself too hard; but he left in good spirits for a holiday in Pontresina, where he died in his sleep after a day of active enjoyment.

Magnus was born in Brunswick, and, though domiciled since 1909 in Holland as a loyal and enthusiastic professor in Utrecht, he retained his German nationality and sympathies. During the War he returned to Germany for some years to conduct and organise research on defensive measures in chemical warfare. His strong national sentiment in no degree weakened his personal attachment to British colleagues, and he eagerly resumed the relations with British physiologists which had meant so much to him and to them, and had led them to regard him almost as one of their own community. He came as a welcome guest this spring to the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Physiological Society, and was a candidate for election to its ordinary membership. Medical science has lost a great investigator, still in his prime, and a genial and inspiring personality.

H. H. D.

#### MR. G. C. CHAMPION.

THE death of George Charles Champion, coleopterist, on Aug. 8 at Horsell, Surrey, removes from the ranks of British entomologists one whose name has been a household word among them for more than half a century.

George Charles Champion, who was born in South London in 1851, began to collect and study beetles as a schoolboy, and before he was twenty years old he was recognised by the foremost coleopterists of that time as a field entomologist of more than ordinary energy and acumen. A large number of species were added by him to the British fauna previous to 1878, in which year he was offered a commission by the late F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin to proceed to Central America and collect entomological material for the great faunistic work which they had recently commenced. Champion arrived in Guatemala early in 1879, and during the next two years traversed

many hundreds of miles on horse- and mule-back, from the Pacific coast to the Polochic Valley opening into the Caribbean Sea. The number of insects of all orders collected by him and sent home in first-rate condition from Guatemala was truly enormous, and even greater success attended his researches in Chiriqui, Colombia, where his last two years in Central America were spent. An admirable itinerary of his travels in this region appeared in the *Entomological News* for 1907, which is reproduced with additions in the introductory volume of the "Biologia Centrali-Americana."

Champion returned to England in 1883, and at once found congenial work as sub-editor of the "Biologia," and private secretary to Messrs. Godman and Salvin. Besides preparing, with the able assistance of the late Mr. Arthur Cant, the vast mass of Central American Coleoptera for the collaborators in the section of the great work devoted to the Insecta, he was entirely or mainly responsible for eight volumes dealing with that order, in which upwards of 4000 species of beetles were described by him as new. Another volume on the Rhynchota is also due to him, and his share in the production of the "Biologia" is generously acknowledged by the late Dr. Godman in the "Introductory Volume," which concluded the great undertaking in 1915.

Champion's favourite group of beetles was the Heteromera, and in 1895 he published in the Belgian *Annales* a list of the Tenebrionidæ supplementary to that of the great Munich Catalogue of 1869, which more than doubled the number of known species of that extensive family.

The name of Champion is especially associated with the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*. To the pages of this valuable serial he was one of the earliest and most constant contributors, and after he became a member of the editorial staff in 1891, his services in maintaining the high standard and character of the magazine have throughout been regarded by his colleagues as inestimable. He was also, for the last four years, one of the editors of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

In 1891, twenty years after his election as a subscriber, Champion succeeded the late Ferdinand Grut as librarian to the Entomological Society of London. He held this onerous office for nearly thirty years, and in 1893 he produced the first printed "Catalogue" of the Library, followed by a "Supplement" seven years afterwards. His modest and retiring character prevented his acceptance of the chair of the Society, but in 1925 he was one of the vice-presidents. He joined the Zoological Society in 1888, and in 1897 the Linnean Society elected him one of its associates. At the jubilee meeting of the South London Entomological Society in 1922, he was the sole surviving original member, having taken a leading share in the inception of this flourishing association. Steady, thorough, and meticulously accurate in all his work, and at all times ready to assist his friends and colleagues to the utmost of his power, his death leaves a gap in the ranks of British entomologists which it will be difficult to fill.

J. J. W.