

side of life which the physiologist does not meet in the cold aloofness of the laboratory. The art of medicine is not based merely on the application of skilled technique; it demands in addition a full and sympathetic comprehension of human nature with all its hopes and fears, its frailty and courage. Yet the more the physiologist can find out about the characteristics of normal life the greater will be his service to medicine, for a knowledge of the normal cannot but help us to estimate with greater certainty the influence of the abnormal, and the underlying principles of adaptation of organ activity which we as physiologists recognise in the functional changes which exhibit themselves in everyday life; and, in the reactions to alterations of environment, have their counterpart in medicine in the natural efforts at compensation for the effects of injury or disease, a compensation which it must be the aim of the physician to encourage and assist.

There is yet another field in which scope may be

found for human physiology. In the growing complexity of the modern world the improvement of the general standard of life is a matter which appeals to all of us. Physiologists have already played a prominent part in investigations into the means by which conditions may be improved and risk reduced in industrial processes, into the factors which affect the efficiency and welfare of the working classes, and into the influence of diet on health. Problems such as these, the solution of which is of direct benefit to the community at large, call for the practical application of physiological principles. We ought not to regard applied physiology as something distinct, as something to be divorced from the more academic study of theoretical physiology; it should be looked upon as the natural extension of our researches in the laboratory. These practical problems in their turn often suggest new lines of inquiry, new methods of approach, by which the science of physiology may be still further advanced.

### Obituary.

PROF. R. A. LEHFELDT.

PROF. ROBERT ALFRED LEHFELDT, professor of economics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, whose untimely death is reported from Cape Town, was born at Birmingham on May 7, 1868, and thus was in his sixtieth year. Lehfeldd's initial education and pursuit of science was largely the outcome of strenuous personal endeavour. Obtaining a scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge (1886), he secured a first class in both parts of the Natural Science Tripos. Meanwhile he read for a London degree, eventually taking his D.Sc. in physics. On leaving Cambridge, Lehfeldd occupied a post as demonstrator in physics at the University of Sheffield (then Firth College); later, he became professor of physics at the East London Technical College, remaining there until appointed (1906) to the chair of physics, Transvaal Technical Institute, Johannesburg, a post resigned on his acceptance (1917) of the professorship of economics in the University of the Witwatersrand.

Among several papers by Lehfeldd published in the *Philosophical Magazine* are: "A Potentiometer for Thermocouple Measurements" (1903), and "The Treatment of Electrodynamics" (1909). He translated from the German, Van 't Hoff's lectures on theoretical and physical chemistry (3 vols., 1898-1900), also Nernst's theoretical chemistry (Macmillan, 1904), revised in accordance with the fourth German edition. He was the author of a text-book of physical chemistry (general theory) in the series edited by Sir William Ramsay (1904, a new impression appearing in 1920). Lehfeldd was a valued worker for the Royal Society's "Catalogue of Scientific Papers," series 1884-1900. His services are referred to, along with other coadjutors, in Vol. 13 (1914).

In certain fields of economics Lehfeldd was a persistent advocate. The *Economist* published on Nov. 6, 1926, the first of a series of five articles of his (afterwards appearing in pamphlet form) entitled

"Controlling the Output of Gold." A proposition embraced the setting up of an international commission charged with the duty of buying out and becoming the owner of the gold-bearing and gold-producing ores of the world. Lastly, the *Economist* on Sept. 24, 1927, published suggestions leading to a more economic mode of currency in England.

In early years Lehfeldd was reticent, difficult of approach, and somewhat inclined to moodiness. Unfortunately, it would seem that these general characteristics, so far from diminishing with time, gathered force. Notwithstanding, he accomplished much sound work in science and in cognate subjects, and his old associates at home and those overseas will deeply deplore his premature decease.

PROF. LUDWIG DARMSTÄDTER, director of the State Library, Berlin, died on Oct. 18. A native of Mannheim Darmstädter was educated at the Universities of Heidelberg, Leipzig, Berlin, and Paris. About twenty years ago he presented to the State Library, Berlin, his valuable collection of porcelain and of autographs and other documents relating to men of science. This collection, known as the "Dokumenten-Sammlung Darmstädter," has developed until it is probably the largest of its kind. His best-known work is the "Handbuch zur Geschichte der Technik und Naturwissenschaften."

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. M. Bamberg, emeritus professor of inorganic chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Vienna, on Oct. 22, aged sixty-six years.

Dr. R. A. Herman, lecturer in mathematics in the University of Cambridge, on Nov. 29, aged sixty-six years.

Lord Kenyon, K.C.V.O., president of the National Museum of Wales, on Nov. 30, aged sixty-three years.

Prof. Perley F. Walker, dean of the school of engineering of the University of Kansas since 1913, who was known for his work on steam and gas power engineering, on Oct. 17, aged fifty-two years.