being remarkable for both their accuracy and their beauty.

Mr. Durrant was intensely interested in all matters concerning entomological nomenclature, and he was responsible, with Lord Walsingham, for the compilation of what are now familiarly known as the "Merton Rules." Herein is displayed such evidence of acute insight and sympathetic appreciation of the needs of the systematist as could only be manifested by minds accustomed to face and overcome obstacles inherent in a science that has made steady and comparatively rapid progress through many changes, during a period of nearly two hundred years, since its firm establishment by Linnæus. On the formation of the British National Committee on Entomological Nomenclature in 1913, Mr. Durrant fittingly became its first secretary, retaining that office until 1924.

Mr. Durrant was one of the foremost authorities in Great Britain on the Microlepidoptera, and always showed a keen interest in small moths of economic importance, even when outside the scope of his special work. He was particularly attracted to the Pyralid genus Ephestia, the species of which are injurious to various food-stuffs, and his knowledge of these destructive pests resulted in his association with Major-General Sir W. W. O. Beveridge in the "Army Biscuit Enquiry," a report on which was published in 1913, and, in consequence of the value of the results obtained, reprinted during the War by the Trustees of the British Museum. It has been asserted on good authority that improved methods of preparing and baking Army biscuits, adopted as the result of these researches, have resulted in the saving of a considerable sum of money annually.

For ten years Mr. Durrant was on the editorial board of the *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, and his extensive knowledge of obscure scientific literature was always at the service of his fellow-editors and the many others who consulted him. Well known to all who visited the Entomological Department at the British Museum, he was an equally familiar figure at the meetings of the Entomological Society, which he attended regularly until the last year or so, when failing health made him avoid venturing out at night. Although apparently a man of strong constitution, his strenuous activities in connexion with the work of the British Red Cross Society during the War, when he served with the Natural History Museum Section of the 31st London V.A.D., added to the loss of his only child during the same period, seem to have affected his health, and to some extent to have hastened his end. Of genial disposition, friendly to a degree, his warm greeting will long be missed by all who knew him, and not least by those who were most closely associated with him in his various activities. W. H. T. T.

DR. WILLIAM W. FYVIE.

THROUGH the death, from pneumonia, of Dr. W. W. Fyvie, at Aberdeen on Jan. 17, after a short illness, the science of physics, particularly in the branch of radio communication, has lost one who gave his best in her service; and his Alma Mater, whom he served throughout practically the whole of his graduate career, mourns a son who by his labours enhanced her prestige and brought honour to her name.

Dr. Fyvie was essentially an experimentalist. He showed his ability in this direction very early in his career, for when he graduated in 1904 he did so as the most distinguished graduate of his year in practical physics. Six months after graduation he joined the staff of the Natural Philosophy Department of the University of Aberdeen, then under the supervision of the late Prof. Niven. For some years, owing to his time being mainly occupied with the routine work of the Department, he had little opportunity of developing any particular line of research of his own. Gradually, however, he began to devote more and more time to the study of radio telegraphy. This interest was fostered by Prof. Niven, who had himself done much work in this subject in its earlier stages. As a result the Department became one of the then comparatively few stations permitted both to send and receive radio signals. The outbreak of the War put an end temporarily to their activities, but with the cessation of hostilities the work was again resumed.

The problem which interested Fyvie most at that time was that of telephonic reception, and his energies were turned towards finding the best method for accomplishing this end. Within more recent years he applied himself assiduously to the explanation of the variation of signal strength at sunrise and sunset, and to the problem of 'fading' in general. About twelve months ago he evolved a theory of 'fading' in terms of the interference of reflected waves which accounted excellently for a large number of observations, but he refrained from publishing it until he could satisfy himself of its applicability to all conditions, and he was still working actively on the problem when he died.

The loss of Dr. Fyvie will be felt by many generations of students, to whom he was always a popular and inspiring teacher; while those who knew him intimately, knew him for a man of sterling worth, always ready and willing to spend himself on behalf of his friends.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Miller Christy, author of a "Handbook of Essex," "Birds of Essex," and other publications on the archæology of Essex, on Jan. 25.

Prof. J. L. Heiberg, of Copenhagen, the historian of Greek mathematics and natural science, a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, on Jan. 4, aged seventy-two years.

Prof. H. A. Lorentz, For. Mem. R.S., and Copley medallist in 1918, for many years professor of theoretical physics in the University of Leyden and one of NATURE'S "Scientific Worthies," on Feb. 4, aged seventy-four years.

Dr. T. Adrian Palm, who put forward the view that rickets is due to deprivation of sunlight so long ago as 1890, and was the author of contributions to medical literature on diseases and customs in Japan.