

between potentate and student by the aid of hand cameras: then dinner in a college hall and the cultured serenity of the combination room, so impressive as to suggest that two or three years at an English university would form the proper completion of the education of the heir to a throne. In 1920 that idea found expression at Oxford. Kumar Rajendra Singh, recently married to the daughter of the Maharaja of Vizianagram, went to Christ Church, and the Maharaj Rana enrolled himself at New College. Apart from a short return home in 1921, he lived in Oxford for two years; but he was always to be found at the lectures of the Royal Institution. The British Association, the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Royal Aeronautical Society, and again, whatever was going on at the Meteorological Office, engaged his attention, including another meeting of the International Commission for Weather Telegraphy. His part in the many scientific meetings which he attended was mainly to listen and appreciate. Conversation was favoured as a mode of expressing himself, rather than writing or speechmaking; in that and in his letters he was invariably alert and precise.

The *Times* of April 15 gave a striking account of the character and achievements of the Maharaj Rana as a ruler. Others will cherish the remembrance of a genial and enthusiastic student of Nature and art. As a Rajput his traditions and reminiscences were of military prowess and achievements with the bow. As one condoles with the new Maharajah on the loss of his father, it is impossible not to wonder what would happen if the Indian princes betook themselves to the conquest of the secrets of the Nature that surrounds them; if they should turn their swords into tuning-forks and their arrows into sounding balloons. NAPIER SHAW.

SWEDISH zoology has sustained a serious loss in the death of Prof. Nils Johan Teodor Odhner, which occurred at Stockholm on Oct. 29, 1928. Prof. Odhner was born at Lund in 1879. Graduating at the University of Uppsala, he became lecturer in zoology at that University. In 1914 he was nominated as professor of zoology in the University of Oslo (Norway), and four years later he became *Intendant* of the department of invertebrates in the State Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. Prof. Odhner's zoological work consists principally of systematic and faunistic papers on the Trematoda, upon which group of animals he had been for many years a leading authority. He also devoted some time to the study of certain groups of Crustacea. His activities were not, however, confined to zoological research. His wide social interests and energetic contribution to the intellectual life of his country are manifested by the various official positions which he occupied—as a delegate to the League of Nations, president of the Sweden-Finland Foundation, and vice-secretary of the Swedish Academy of Science. As a speaker and writer he contributed much to the popularisation of his own branch of science.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosebery and Midlothian, K.G., K.T., F.R.S., Chancellor of the University of London, who was elected to the Royal Society in 1886 under Statute 12, which permits of the election of persons who "either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society", on May 21, aged eighty-two years.

M. Emile Chaix, professor of physical geography at the University of Geneva, aged seventy-four years.

News and Views.

THE most important legislation affecting the welfare of migratory birds, since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 between the United States and Canada, was passed by the U.S. Senate on Feb. 11, and signed by President Coolidge on Feb. 18. This was the Norbeck-Andresen Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which has been fought for eight years in eight sessions of Congress, and finally succeeded when the matter of a Federal license, to which objection had been taken, was omitted from the Bill. The Act is a direct sequel to the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918, for it was found that, useful as that Treaty had been, much of its potential value seemed likely to be lost if provision could not be made for a system of refuges or sanctuaries in the areas traversed by the birds in their migratory flights, and on their wintering grounds. The purchases of such reserve areas demanded large sums of money, and it was to meet this outlay that the Federal license, which proved to be the stumbling-block of the original Bill, was proposed. The difficulty of finance has been removed by proposed State grants. Although the Act makes no appropriation, it authorises a schedule of appropriations amounting in all to some eight million dollars, and settling down after ten years

to an annual sum of 200,000 dollars. The first year's sum of 75,000 dollars is to be devoted to a survey of the area to determine the places best suited to become bird-refuges, and, this completed, the selected areas will be purchased and henceforth guarded by an appropriate staff. The American Game Protective Association, which has strongly advocated the proposals of the bill in its bulletin, *American Game*, is to be congratulated on the success of its campaign.

A SPECIAL type of rubber made by the Expanded Rubber Co., Ltd., Wembley Park, and marketed under the trade name of 'Onazote', which appears to have many uses in science and technology, has recently been mentioned in the Press. Onazote is essentially a very spongy form of rubber prepared by vulcanisation under high gaseous pressure, which is sometimes as high as a hundred atmospheres. During the cooling process the pressure is gradually reduced, with the result that the occluded gas expands, forming pockets of air enclosed in thin rubber membranes. Onazote can be prepared with a variety of physical properties by suitably varying the process of preparation. In particular, it can be produced in a hard