

superintendent, and Eardley-Wilmot came back to Calcutta from Burma. This was in February 1903; and the first of many conversations then took place between the Inspector-General of Forests and myself on the subject of the formation of a Forest Research Institute. Lord Curzon was Viceroy, and once Eardley-Wilmot had obtained his sympathetic consideration, the matter went through and the Institute was inaugurated in 1906, six research posts being filled by officers selected from the Forest Department. The Inspector-General often said that his reply to the query as to where he was going to obtain his research officers, "From the Department, sir", pleased the Viceroy almost more than any other incident in connexion with the new departure. For Lord Curzon was the Viceroy who really commenced the introduction of the scientific expert into India, and it proved a difficult work at first to obtain suitable men. The research officers were appointed and commenced work. But there were no buildings and no equipment. All that had to come. The opening by the Viceroy of the greatly enlarged Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun (*NATURE* of Nov. 16, p. 778), but six days before Eardley-Wilmot's death, is a witness to the enormous value of the step taken in 1906.

Eardley-Wilmot left India in 1908 on furlough, retiring from the service in 1909. His work was not finished. For he was appointed in 1910 as one of the Commissioners of the newly formed Development Commission, forestry being his special charge. With his Indian experience behind him, he determined that forestry education was one of the first lines to take up in Great Britain. Grants for this purpose were made to various institutions. Edinburgh received a grant from the Development Commissioners of £10,000. The larger part of this grant was made with the object of erecting suitable departmental buildings (we only had two cellars in the old University buildings at the time), the University Court adding a similar sum. A further grant was offered to enable a chair to be established, and this sum also eventually materialised. At the end of five years as a Development Commissioner, Eardley-Wilmot was appointed forestry adviser to the Commission and held the appointment for five years. At the end of this period the Forestry Commission came into being and took over charge of forestry work from the Development Commission. This ended Eardley-Wilmot's active life as a forest officer.

It is perhaps too soon to adjudicate correctly upon the value of Eardley-Wilmot's ten years' work for forestry in Great Britain and Ireland. The Development Commissioners had no executive powers; grants were given in the interests of afforestation and a commencement had been made with the introduction of a system of co-operation between landlord and State in the formation of new plantations on a profit-sharing basis. For the purpose of this review of Eardley-Wilmot's life's work, he will be remembered for the part he played in bringing the Forest Research Institute into being in India, and—what he himself would value

as a still stronger claim—he will be remembered as a fine forester and magnificent sportsman. His "Forest Life and Sport in India" is regarded as a classic as much from the scientific forestry viewpoint as from a natural history and sporting one. He also published two other books, "The Life of a Tiger" and "The Life of an Elephant", both of which gave evidence of a close study of the lore of the jungle.

E. P. STEBBING.

MR. W. R. BOWER.

THE death occurred at his home at Huddersfield, on Nov. 20, of Mr. William Richard Bower, who was for more than thirty years head of the Physics and Electrical Engineering Department of the Huddersfield Technical College.

Mr. Bower was born at Southampton and received his early education at the Taunton School and the Hartley College in that town. Gaining a national scholarship, he proceeded to the Royal College of Science, London, of which he became an associate and later a member of staff. Before the commencement of his long period at Huddersfield in 1896, he served on the staffs of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Brighton Technical College. He was a fellow of both the Physical Society and the Institute of Physics, and, after his retirement, received the honorary title of emeritus professor of physics at Huddersfield Technical College. His breadth of knowledge, attention to detail, and great experience as an experimentalist gave a marked impress to his teaching and brought him the warm affection of his students.

Amongst Mr. Bower's early activities at Huddersfield was the practical application of X-rays, in which he was a local pioneer; many and varied were the cases then brought to the College for examination. Later, as a writer, he was joint author of Bower and Satterly's "Practical Physics" and author of "Primary Physical Science" which appeared last year. He was especially interested in optics and published papers illustrating the application of graphical and geometrical methods.

Mr. Bower's steadiness of aim, disinterested sincerity, and great capacity for administrative work led him to take active interest in the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions. He served on the national executive of this body for many years, and, at a critical period in the history of the teaching profession, became president of the Association and a member of the Burnham Committee. His judicial temper and unfailing courtesy made him an invaluable negotiator.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Charles Chilton, lately professor of biology and Rector of Canterbury College, New Zealand, an authority on the crustacea of New Zealand and the Antarctic regions, on Oct. 25, aged sixty-nine.

Dr. F. W. Dootson, lecturer and demonstrator in chemistry in the University of Cambridge, on Dec. 12.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Bradwardine Jackson, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., F.R.S., a pioneer in the development of wireless telegraphy, on Dec. 14, aged seventy-four years.