

Obituary.

DR. J. G. DE MAN.

THE Dutch zoologist Dr. Johannes Govertus de Man, who died at Middelburg on Jan. 19 last in his eightieth year, was well known as an authority on two very diverse groups of animals, the free-living Nematode worms and the Decapod Crustacea.

De Man was born in 1850 at Middelburg, where his father, Dr. J. C. de Man, was a physician well known throughout the Netherlands. He studied mathematics and natural science at the University of Leyden, where he received the degree of doctor in 1873 for a thesis, "Comparative Studies on the Myology and Neurology of Amphibia and Birds." He was appointed first assistant in the State museum of natural history in Leyden in 1872, and three years later was promoted to be conservator. He had studied under Leuckart at Leipzig in 1872, and in 1876 he spent some months at the recently established zoological station at Naples, where, however, his stay was cut short by a severe attack of typhoid. In 1881-82 he worked in Selenka's laboratory at Erlangen, studying the sipunculid worms collected by Semper on his expedition to the Philippine Islands.

In 1883 de Man had to resign his post at the museum at Leyden owing to prolonged ill-health and he retired to pursue his studies, first at his parents' home at Middelburg and later in a house which he built overlooking the Scheldt at Ierseke. Here he lived the quiet life of the student, working out collections from museums and expeditions all over the world, appealed to by the neighbouring fishermen when anything out of the common came to their nets, and explaining to the children the nature of the treasures gathered on their seaside rambles. Although he took no part in public life, his purse was ever open to appeals for charitable or useful purposes. None could have been more courteous and helpful to those who sought information by correspondence, and none more careful to give acknowledgment for any assistance he received.

The free-living nematodes are a group little studied in comparison with those species that, by reason of their parasitic habits, come into more direct relation with human affairs, and few zoologists have any suspicion of their abundance or their variety. In their study de Man was, after Bastian, one of the pioneers, and his work on them will not soon be surpassed for thoroughness and precision. On the Decapod Crustacea, his numerous memoirs and papers, full of the most careful and detailed description and beautifully illustrated by his own pencil, remain as a mine of information for all students of the group. An obituary notice in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant* of Jan. 29 concludes with the words, "He leaves a blank, not only in the learned world, but also among the simple fisher-folk of Ierseke"; a fitting epitaph for the kindly old scholar.

W. T. C.

LIEUT. C. B. EIELSON.

THE loss of Lieut. Eielson removes one of the most experienced Arctic pilots and a pioneer in polar aviation. On Nov. 9 last year, he set out from Teller in Alaska on a second aeroplane journey to the ice-bound vessel *Nanuk*, off Cape North, Siberia. On his failure to arrive, search parties were sent out, and during the month of February discovered the bodies of Lieut. Eielson and his companion, Mr. E. Borland, near the wrecked machine about 90 miles south-east of Cape North.

Carl Ben Eielson was an American of Norwegian descent. In 1923 he was the first pilot to use an aeroplane in Alaska, and his success led to his being employed to carry mails during winter. In 1926 he joined Mr. (now Sir) Hubert Wilkins in his trial tests over the Arctic Ocean, which were continued in 1927 in preparation for a trans-polar flight. In that year they flew more than five hundred miles to the north-west of Cape Barrow. On the return, a forced descent on the pack ice was followed, after a second start, by another descent, which entailed leaving the machine and marching 75 miles over the ice to land. This was done in two weeks, without any considerable difficulty.

In 1928, Eielson piloted Wilkins's machine from Point Barrow via northern Greenland to Spitsbergen. This was a flight of twenty hours and remarkable for its daring and skilful navigation. In the same year Eielson went to the Antarctic with Wilkins and was his pilot in his 1200-mile flight in December, which resulted in the discovery that Graham Land is a series of islands.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Balfour, F.R.S., Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and of Edinburgh, on Mar. 19, aged eighty-one years.

Mr. T. A. Barns, a well-known Central African traveller and naturalist, on Mar. 4, aged forty-eight years.

Mr. R. Moir Clark, until last year lecturer in agricultural botany at the University of Aberdeen and secretary for many years of the Aberdeen Natural History Society, aged sixty-three years.

Mr. Edward Clodd, distinguished by his work and publications on folk-lore and anthropology, on Mar. 16, aged eighty-nine years.

Dr. A. T. Hadley, emeritus president of Yale University and a distinguished economist, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. Maurice R. J. Hayes, professor of materia medica and therapeutics, University College, Dublin, and first Director-General of the Irish Free State Army Medical Service, who was an authority on radiology, on Mar. 2, aged fifty-one years.

Dr. J. B. Hurry, formerly medical officer of Reading and author of a series of books on "Vicious Circles" which appeared in many languages, on Feb. 15, aged seventy-two years.

Dr. K. J. P. Orton, F.R.S., professor of chemistry, University College of North Wales, on Mar. 16, aged fifty-seven years.