

Theobald was not a collector in the ordinary sense of the word, and was always against the formation of mere collections of dried insects; he got together, however, what is probably the finest collection in existence of insects of economic importance, showing the various stages and damage done by these pests. In his work he may at times have appeared too hasty in his summing up of obscure matters and so opened himself to criticism, but in time his critics were usually compelled to come round to his way of thinking.

Of a kindly and genial nature, Theobald was always more than ready to help with advice those who came to him for assistance, and the present writer, who had the privilege of being in close touch with him for nineteen years, will always be grateful to him for his ever-ready help. He was buried in Wye Churchyard on Monday, Mar. 10, being borne from the house by colleagues and students of the College to which he had given so much of his time. C. A. W. D.

WE regret to announce the death in his sixty-second year of Prof. Robert Franz Pschorr, which occurred quite unexpectedly on Feb. 23 in Munich. Prof. Pschorr occupied the chair of organic chemistry at the Technical High School in Charlottenburg. From the *Chemiker-Zeitung* we learn the following particulars of his career. Born and educated in Munich, he began the study of chemistry there under Adolph von Baeyer. Part of his student course was also spent with Bamberger at Zurich and with Knorr at Jena, where he graduated in 1893. Attracted to Berlin by Emil Fischer, he

began there his well-known work on the synthesis of derivatives of phenanthrene, which at once established his reputation. Thereafter Pschorr's chief interest lay in the investigation of the constitution of the alkaloids derived from phenanthrene. Shortly after his arrival in Berlin, Pschorr was appointed to a responsible position in the University Chemical Institute, and in 1914 he was elected to succeed Liebermann at Charlottenburg. During his later years he devoted considerable attention to the investigation of coal-tar. He interested himself greatly in the student-life of Berlin, and became the first president of the students' hostel at Charlottenburg. He was the recipient of many academic honours, and was one of the editors of the *Berichte der deutschen chemischen Gesellschaft*.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. G. A. Gibson, emeritus professor of mathematics in the University of Glasgow, aged seventy-one years.

M. Armand Solvay, president of the Société Solvay, and honorary member of the Society of Chemical Industry, who was the son of Ernest Solvay, the pioneer of the ammonia soda process, on Feb. 2, aged sixty-three years.

Dr. J. W. L. Spence, who was associated with Röntgen in his early investigation of X-rays, and was one of the founders of the Radiological Department of Edinburgh Infirmary, on Mar. 15.

Sir David Wilson, Bart., honorary treasurer and formerly chairman of directors and convener of the science committee of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, on Mar. 8, aged seventy-four years.

News and Views.

MR. RICHARD INWARDS, pioneer in mining and related operations in various parts of the world, celebrates his ninetieth birthday on April 22, an event the more auspicious in view of his maintenance of personal vigour. Born at Houghton Regis and educated at Soulbury, Mr. Inwards early engaged in and afterwards adopted as a career mining prospection work, allied also with managerial duties. He has reported on mining enterprises in Great Britain, Norway, Portugal, Austria, South America, and Mexico; indeed we think he has an even wider range of countries to his credit. Elected president of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1894, Mr. Inwards served for two years; his presidential addresses were entitled respectively, "Some Phenomena of the Upper Air", and "Weather Fallacies". He was also author of an interesting paper "Turner's Representations of Lightning", showing that the artist's representations might be placed side by side with photographs of lightning, and would be found to convey faithfully to the mind all that the highest powers of sight can perceive in the phenomena. Mr. Inwards once wrote regarding popular weather prophets: "The stock-in-trade of a prophet is of a slender and cheap description. He must have an inventive mind, a store of self-confidence, a keen memory for successes, and a prompt forgetful-

ness of failures." Mr. Inwards has been a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society for many years.

CLASSICAL education, as a contribution to general culture of the mind, is by no means to be held in small repute by those whose training has directed them into scientific channels of thought. We sympathise with the view that everyone, including the scientific worker, has much to learn from the classics, and here we evidently have the support of the Archbishop of York, who discussed the matter in his presidential address to the Classical Association on "The Distinctive Excellencies of Greek and Latin". To look back on to a past age, to examine and to assimilate something of the spirit of the sources of our present-day civilisation, is a delight and a profitable recreation such as we could wish all members of the scientific professions to enjoy, for the distinctive excellencies of Greek and Latin are unquestionable. In so far as there are schools whence youth passes out into the world primed with scientific facts and figures but ignorant almost of the very existence of ancient civilisations, we would support the claims of the humanities—literature, history, philosophy—to recognition, but we would also remind Dr. Temple that there are places where neither the plea nor the support is necessary, where it is the