

After his return from South America, von Ihering was honorary professor of palæontology in the University of Giessen. Many of his views were rejected when first advanced, but are now receiving wider recognition and acceptance.

PRINCIPAL J. YULE MACKAY.

JOHN YULE MACKAY, whose death on Mar. 30 we regret to record, was a distinguished student of the University of Glasgow. After graduation in medicine in 1882, he became Cleland's senior demonstrator and lecturer on embryology.

Mackay was successful as a teacher, and, in addition, he produced original work of permanent value. He devoted his attention mainly to the vascular system, and wrote a monograph on the morphology of the arterial arches in birds which was published in 1888 in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*. He was with Cleland the originator of the "Memoirs and Memoranda in Anatomy" which was issued from the Glasgow School, and its first volume, published in 1889, contained an interesting paper by him on "The Arterial System of Vertebrates Morphologically Considered", in which from his comparative observations, he constructed a scheme of the classification of the branches of the aorta, the correctness of which has been confirmed by subsequent embryological observations. His ability and energy were shown also in the volume on "Human Anatomy: General and Descriptive", which he produced in association with Cleland.

Shortly after Mackay's appointment to the chair

of anatomy in University College, Dundee, he was selected to be the principal of that College, and he held the dual posts until a few years ago, when he resigned the chair but retained the principalship. He was for many years the University representative of the University of St. Andrews on the General Medical Council, and until recently was the chairman of the Education Committee of the Council.
D. W.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. J. H. Appleton, emeritus professor of chemistry at Brown University, known for his work in industrial chemistry, on Feb. 18, aged eighty-six years.

Dr. Asaph Hall, of the U.S. Naval Observatory, vice-president in 1900 of Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who was known for his work on the orbits of planetary satellites, on Jan. 12, aged seventy years.

Prof. Conrad Keller, professor of special zoology in the Technical Highschool, Zurich, author of works on the origin of domestic animals, aged eighty-two years.

Dr. W. A. Orton, director of the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, formerly plant pathologist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and president in 1921 of the American Phytopathological Society, on Jan. 7, aged fifty-two years.

Dr. R. F. Ruttan, emeritus dean of the faculty of graduate studies and research at McGill University, past president of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Society of Chemical Industry, on Feb. 19, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. L. Vialleton, honorary doyen of the faculty of medicine of the University of Montpellier, author of works on histology, evolution, and other zoological topics, aged sixty-nine years.

News and Views.

ON May 10 occurs the centenary of the birth of the distinguished French chemist, François Marie Raoult. The son of a customs officer, he was educated at Laon and Paris, became a teacher, held various appointments at Rheims and elsewhere, and in 1870, at the age of forty, succeeded to the chair of chemistry at Grenoble, where the remainder of his life was passed. His earliest researches were largely connected with the phenomena of the voltaic cell, but his name is best known for his work on solutions, which occupied the last two decades of his life. His first paper on the depression of the freezing points of liquids by the presence of substances dissolved in them was published in 1878. Continued experiments with various solvents led him to the discovery of a simple relation between the molecular weights of substances and the freezing-point of the solvent which he expressed in the "loi générale de la congélation". He also studied the diminution of the vapour pressure of a solvent caused by dissolving a substance in it, and his important work in these directions was afterwards used by such eminent investigators as van 't Hoff and Ostwald in support of the hypothesis of electrolytic dissociation in solutions. An account of his work was given in a memorial lecture in 1902 by van 't Hoff before the Chemical Society, of which Raoult had been elected a foreign member in 1898. A modest, retiring, and dignified man, he lived

mainly for his work, the value of which was recognised by the award of prizes by the Paris Academy of Sciences and of the Davy Medal of the Royal Society. His death took place on April 1, 1901.

FOR the public Kew is a delightful pleasure, for the gardener a demonstration of achievement and a suggestion of possibilities, and for the botanist a storehouse of information and a centre for research. The recently issued number of the *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* (Appendix I., 1930), comprises under this familiar but somewhat unattractive title, a review of the work of the various departments of the Royal Gardens during 1929. In 1925 work was begun on the formation of a National Pinetum at Bedgebury, in Kent, as the nearness of London is not conducive to the growth of conifers; and in spite of the long cold winter and abnormally dry summer of 1929, good progress is reported. The abolition of the penny charge for admission to the gardens from August Bank Holiday onwards is reflected in an increase in the number of visitors of nearly 220,000 between August and December, as compared with the corresponding period in 1928. The hard winter of 1928-29 and the boisterous gales of the last two months of the year caused severe losses among shrubs and large trees, but the long hot summer gave an unusual brilliance of colour to the abundant crops of fruits and berries on