his collection should either 'go to the hammer', or else be shown as a scientific collection with all the advantages of exhibition that art collections usually enjoy. By the greatest good fortune, a part of the most historic building connected with the early history of science in Britain, the Old Ashmolean, was available, and this being approved by Dr. Evans, was allocated by the University to his collection. The Goldsmiths' Company voted £1000 for initial expenses, and is now offering £500 more if and when a greatly needed extension of exhibition space is forthcoming either in the Old Chemical Laboratory or in the original meeting-room of the Oxford Scientific Society of 1683. A benefactor to complete the good work which Dr. Lewis Evans has so generously begun is urgently needed, for the losses of most important instruments are great and are continuing. R. T. G.

THE RIGHT HON. EDWARD ALLEN, BARON BROTHERTON OF WAKEFIELD.

THE career of a great industrial leader is not one which demands from him a platform exposition of his aims, policy, and programme as a condition of success, but perhaps all the more on that account any self-revealing utterances from such a man have a peculiar interest and special value. With Lord Brotherton, who died on Oct. 21 at the age of seventy-four years, it so happened that, in the last few months of his long and strenuous life, circumstances combined to break the barriers of constitutional reserve and led him to speak to sympathetic listeners of his experiences and aspirations.

Three occasions, different in character, come to the mind of the present writer. The first of these was the laying of the foundation-stone of the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds. Lord Brotherton there spoke in firm voice and measured sentences of carefully prepared wording to an audience of the University and its friends. It was a dignified expression of what was in his mind in making this generous monetary gift, which should enable the University to erect a noble building for the housing of its library, and in adding thereto not only the fine collection of books which it had been his pride to bring together in his own home, but also an endowment to secure their care and maintain their usefulness.

On the same evening Lord Brotherton was the guest of the University at a dinner, and there, speaking with feeling and in simple, direct, and unprepared language, it was evident that he had the greatest possible wish to escape from his habitual reserve, and to get into closer human contact with the members of the Senate and others whose academic life and outlook were necessarily so different in some respects from his own. The sincerity and unconventionality of this speech were remarkably impressive.

On the third occasion, a little later, Lord Brotherton was in the midst of his fellow-members of the Society of Chemical Industry, who had marked their appreciation of his high standing and achievements as a master of their calling by conferring upon him the Messel medal and inviting him to deliver the Messel lecture at the annual meeting of the Society in Birmingham. He expressed at once his intention of dealing with what he knew best, and told the story of his own connexion with industrial chemistry. He told how he left Owens College to engage, in the first place, in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate, and showed how he was able to extend his operations in various directions, mainly by organisation, insight into the opportunities presented by the introduction of new chemical processes, and the determination to place his resources boldly at the back of any venture which had won his confidence. So came into being and good fortune the firm which bore his name, and so later arose his connexion with the Cassel Cyanide Company, of which he became chairman in succession to Sir George Beilby.

These three occasions of self-explanation came close in time to the termination of a career marked in equal measure by outstanding achievement and the exercise of a large-minded generosity.

J. W. COBB.

DR. E. H. WILSON.

THE death of Dr. Ernest Henry Wilson on Oct. 15, as the result of a motoring accident, will be lamented in botanical and horticultural circles, not only in Britain and America, but also throughout the world, for Wilson's activities were truly international. The news to hand from the Arnold Arboretum states that Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were returning from a visit to their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Slate, at Geneva, New York State, when their car skidded on the greasy surface while travelling on the Boston Road, Worcester, Mass., crashing through a fence and down a 40-feet embankment. Mrs. Wilson was killed outright, and Dr. Wilson died soon after admission to hospital.

Wilson was born at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, on Feb. 15, 1876. He entered the Birmingham Botanic Gardens as a student in 1892 and moved to Kew in January 1897. In the lecture room and in the practical work of the Gardens it is evident that Wilson soon attracted attention, as he obtained first place in several of the lecture courses, and was awarded the Hooker Prize of the Mutual Improvement Society for an essay on Coniferæ. Wilson's next move was to the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, where he obtained a studentship with a view to becoming a teacher in botany.

At this time, the late Dr. Augustine Henry was sending home specimens—a few seeds, and letters descriptive of the floral wealth of Hupeh, China. Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, decided to send out a collector, and asked the then Director of Kew, Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, to recommend a suit-

able man. Wilson was chosen, and made his first journey between 1899 and 1902. This proved so successful that a second journey was made during 1903–5. Two further trips followed in 1907–9 and 1910–11, these journeys being on behalf of Harvard University and a few subscribers. The results of his labours are recorded in "Plantæ Wilsonianæ", which contains descriptions of 3356 species and varieties. Of these, nearly nine hundred were new, including several new genera. In 1914 and 1917 Wilson made two journeys to Japan. He was appointed Assistant-Director of the Arnold Arboretum in 1919. The next year he set out on a two years' tour through Australia, New Zealand, India, and Central and South Africa. On the death of Prof. C. S. Sargent in 1927, Wilson was appointed Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum.

An untiring worker, Dr. Wilson found time to write nearly a dozen books on his plant collections and studies. The best known of these are: "A Naturalist in Western China", 1913; "Cherries of Japan", 1916; "Conifers and Taxads of Japan", 1916; "Lilies of Eastern Asia", 1925; and "Aristocrats of the Garden", 1926. His work received recognition from numerous learned societies, including the Victoria medal of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1912, the Geoffrey St. Hilaire gold medal, the George Robert White medal, the Veitch memorial medal, and the Rhododendron Society's cup. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an honorary M.A. of Harvard University, and in June last Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., conferred on him the degree of D.Sc.

As a plant collector, botanist, horticulturist, and author, Dr. Wilson possessed great knowledge of his subjects. He was also himself a very likeable man, which makes his loss the greater. A. O.

Prof. Florian Cajori.

We much regret to record the death, which occurred on Aug. 14, of Prof. Florian Cajori, professor of the history of mathematics in the University of California. An appreciation of his work by Prof. David Eugene Smith appears in *Science* of Sept. 19, to which we are indebted for the following particulars. Florian Cajori was born in Switzerland on Feb. 28, 1859, and went to the United States when he was sixteen years of age. Between 1889 and 1918 he was at Colorado College, first as professor of physics, later as professor of mathematics, and finally as dean of the Department of Engineering. Throughout this period he paid particular attention to the history of his subjects. In 1918 he went to the University of California as professor of the history of mathematics. Cajori was the author of several works on the history of the physical sciences and mathematics, and at the time of his death was engaged on an edition of Newton's "Principia". His most important work was "The History of Mathematical Notations" (2 vols., 1928, 1929); while his "History of the Logarithmic Slide Rule" (1909) is still one of the most authoritative treatises on the subject.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

M. Paul Appell, president in 1914 of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and more recently Rector of the University of Paris, who was distinguished for his mathematical work, on Oct. 23, aged seventy-five years.

Dr. W. R. Eckardt, director of the Meteorological Observatory at Essen, and author of "Grundzüge einer Physioklimatologie der Festländer", aged fifty-one years.

Dr. W. M. W. Haffkine, C.I.E., formerly bacteriologist with the Government of India, distinguished for his research work on plague and cholera, on Oct. 26, aged seventy years.

News and Views.

No one more appropriate than Mr. H. G. Wells could have been found to introduce Prof. L. T. Hogben to his audience on Thursday, Oct. 23, when he read himself in as professor of social biology at the London School of Economics. Mr. Wells hailed the new experiment in bringing biology and economics together as the portent of a complete change of direction and method for the social and economic sciences, and spoke of it as a most exciting event. He did not spare the traditional treatment of the dismal science, which, dealing with human things, was, he said, entirely inhuman. While pretending to be a science, it began with hypotheses and definitions in the mediæval manner, and maintained to the present time the flavour of scholasticism. It would not have been Mr. Wells if he had not clearly been rejoicing in the belief that the new chair would be revolutionary: with the rapid advances in the knowledge of the biology of man made in the last quarter of a century, the new body of knowledge which can be brought to bear on sociology and economics will bring them within the region of pure scientific treatment. He defined the scope of Prof. Hogben's work as the treatment of one special case of the science of ecology, the science of the balance and welfare of species—the study of the fluctuations of the human species under the fluctuating pressure of circumstances. Mr. Wells paid the London School of Economics the compliment of finding the establishment of research into this new byway of science only what one would expect of it, and he described the new professor as a most hopeful and desirable adventurer.

Prof. Hogben's address, a synopsis of which appears elsewhere in this issue, did nothing to damp the liveliness of Mr. Wells's hopes and anticipations. It was a brilliant example of the exposition of a difficult scientific thesis in terms of smooth prose enriched by a wealth of humour and literary allusion. Prof. Hogben is not overwhelmed by the scope or the difficulty of the adventure on which he has embarked. Although Mr. Wells suggested that he was about to cut the first furrow in an almost virgin soil, it is plain enough that the territory has already been surveyed, and that it will not be a random