publishing, as new discoveries, already well-established facts. Of all such tendencies, as well as of work carried out in a perfunctory manner, he was most intolerant and did not hesitate to express his opinion in emphatic terms. His later publications were often greatly condensed and consequently difficult to read. As a result he has sometimes been misunderstood and has not always received the credit to which his work entitles him. His contributions to science, however, have been outstanding and will yet cause his name to be placed among those of the pioneers in bacteriological work.

DR. P. PINKERTON.

PETER PINKERTON was born in Kilmarnock on Jan. 8, 1870, and received his early education at the Academy there. At the University of Glasgow he gained the degree of M.A. with highest honours in mathematics, and afterwards he studied for two years at the Royal College of Science, Dublin. After a period of six years as mathematical master in Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, he was appointed head of the mathematical department of the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, a position which he resigned after a short tenure to take up a similar one in George Watson's College, Edinburgh. Sixteen years ago he was appointed Rector of the High School of Glasgow, and he discharged the varied and responsible duties of that post with marked success and increasing distinction until his death on Nov. 22 last.

Dr. Pinkerton was a very great teacher. He had an exceptionally alert mind and an unfailing sense of humour. About a very clever student he once remarked, "He will make a poor, poor teacher; he never had a difficulty". His own outstanding success was largely due to his complete sympathy with all his pupils. He appreciated the difficulties of the dull, as well as the eager curiosity of the brilliant.

Under Dr. Pinkerton's inspiration and guidance, marked developments took place in the High School of Glasgow. The intellectual and social life was quickened, and the provision of splendid playing fields opened up a new era in athletics. Quietly and unobtrusively he devoted all his powers of mind and heart to the welfare of the School in all its aspects, and its betterment was his constant aim.

Dr. Pinkerton was a prominent member of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society, and served as secretary, as president, and as first editor of *Mathematical Notes*. He frequently contributed to the *Proceedings*, and was the author, in collaboration with the late Prof. Gibson, of a book on the "Elements of Analytical Geometry". Throughout this volume old students have no difficulty in recognising his characteristic methods of treatment and exposition.

The University of Glasgow, for which Dr. Pinkerton acted as examiner for degrees in mathematics at various times, conferred on him the degree of D.Sc. in 1909 and of LL.D. a few months before his death.

DR. H. BORNS.

THE death of Dr. Henry Borns on Dec. 12 last, at the age of seventy-five years, removes a very familiar figure from the meeting-places of scientific societies in London. Until the last year or two, when ill-health made his attendances not so regular, he was present at nearly every meeting concerned with physics or subjects related thereto. Always one would find him busily reporting the proceedings (for many years he acted as reporter for *Engineering*) and anxious to supplement his notes by a talk with the lecturer and a perusal of the manuscript. Although he was thus well known to the secretaries of the societies, few people seem to have known him intimately. He seldom volunteered information about himself, and he probably led a rather lonely life apart from his meetings. He was born in Austria, but must have come early in life to England, for he became a member of the British Association forty-eight years ago, attended the Montreal meeting in 1884, and missed very few meetings since that date. He joined the Physical Society in 1895, and was an original member of the Faraday Society.

Dr. Borns in the course of his work acquired a wide knowledge of physical subjects and his reports displayed expert discrimination. His notes were made without ordinary shorthand, in a curious abbreviated script, presumably legible to himself but a terror to his correspondents, for he used it in his letters also. He was a kindly soul, always anxious to be of assistance to the secretaries with whom he came into contact, and punctual in keeping his promises for the return of manuscripts lent to him. For half a century in a quiet way he served science well and faithfully, by giving it the best form of publicity—that based on accurate and well-informed records. His many scientific friends will miss him greatly.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. J. H. Emerton, an authority on American spiders and formerly secretary of the New England Federation of Natural History Societies, on Dec. 5, aged eighty-three years.

M. Henri Gall, a former president of the French Society of Civil Engineers and president of the Industrial Chemistry Society, aged sixty-eight years.

Prof. Emile Gley, professor of general biology in the Collège de France, who was known for his work on the ductless glands, particularly the thyroid and parathyroid, aged seventy-three years.

Dr. O. P. Hay, formerly of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, known for his researches in Pleistocene palæontology and as author of the "Catalog and Bibliography of the Fossil Vertebrates of North America", on Nov. 2, aged eighty-four years.

Prof. E. W. Hyde, formerly professor of mathematics at the University of Cincinnati and vice-president in 1891 of Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, aged eighty-seven years.

Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Royds, K.B.E., who served as first lieutenant of the *Discovery* in the British Antarctic Expedition of 1901–4, on Jan. 5, aged fifty-four years.