

of Physiology in Boston in 1929. He valued his connexion with Great Britain, and his friends will miss his frequent and cheerful greetings.

Sereni took the degree of M.D. in 1922 with honours. While still a student he had been awarded three scholarships for research work which he performed in the laboratory of human physiology in Rome. After graduation, he obtained, in competition, a studentship from the Ministry of Education to work in Italy and abroad. This was how he came to London, though he supported himself here, frugally enough, for a longer period than the studentship allowed, by working early and late, assisting a medical friend, so leaving the days free for the laboratory. In 1923, he was appointed assistant in the Department of General Physiology in the University of Rome, and in 1925 *libero docente*. From 1925 he gave, every year, in the University of Naples, a course of lectures on physiology for students of medicine and science. In 1926 he was appointed to the position which he held when he died. Before entering the University, Sereni had volunteered, at the age of seventeen years, for military service, serving as a lieutenant and gaining the Croce di Guerra.

Sereni's researches extend over various fields of physiology. His most important work deals with anaphylaxis, which he studied from a general biological point of view on men, on various animals, and particularly on tissue cultures. He worked more recently on the humoral and nervous co-ordination in cephalopods and on the behaviour of unstriated muscle.

A. V. H.

MR. J. G. MILLAIS.

MR. J. G. MILLAIS, who died on Mar. 24, the sixty-sixth anniversary of his birthday, was a man of many interests and talents. A traveller and a sportsman, who followed big game on the continent of Europe, in Africa, and in North America, an artist and a naturalist, who could write discursively about the ways of wild life or particularly upon specific themes, he unified all these interests in authorship. The variety of subjects of his published works is great, as the standard of his descriptions and accuracy is high, yet devotion to sport lay behind most of his writings.

Millais' travel books are always interesting and contain many acute natural history observations. His monographs, essential to the British naturalist, show a wonderful range of information. "The Natural History of British Surface Feeding Ducks" (1902) was rounded off by two volumes on "British Diving Ducks" (1913), and in the interval he wrote "The Natural History of British Game Birds" (1909). Amongst mammals, he opened with a standard work on "British Deer and their Horns" (1897) and proceeded to the most important of all his books, "The Mammals of Great Britain and Ireland", published between 1904 and 1906. The three enormous volumes of this monograph, awkward to handle because of their bulk and weight, contain the best complete account of their subject we possess. Latterly, Millais' interests concentrated upon the flower garden, and amongst his last publications are "Rhododendrons and their Hybrids", a series of three volumes running from 1917 to 1923, and "Magnolias" (1927).

Millais inherited artistic ability from his father, Sir John Millais, and illustrated in full or contributed to the illustration of his own books, but his finished drawings are inclined to be rather stiff and hard in tone, and lack the freedom of line and spontaneity which characterise the pencil sketches he often reproduced.

J. R.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. J. Anderson, formerly fellow of the London School of Tropical Medicine, later professor of medicine in the University of Hong-kong and recently director of the division of medicine in the Henry Lister Institute at Shanghai, aged fifty-two years.

Prof. R. K. Butchart, professor of mathematics in Raffles College, Singapore, and formerly professor of physics in Wilson College, Bombay, on Mar. 30.

Prof. W. C. M'Intosh, F.R.S., emeritus professor of natural history in the University of St. Andrews, distinguished by his work in marine biology, especially the systematic study of British marine annelids, on April 1, aged ninety-four years.

Senator R. Nasini, professor of chemistry in the University of Pisa, on Mar. 29, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. Hugh Ryan, professor of chemistry in the University College of Dublin and Chief State Chemist to the Irish Free State, on Mar. 27, aged fifty-seven years.

News and Views.

THE report of the Court of Inquiry into the loss of the airship *R101* over Beauvais on Oct. 5, 1930, has just been issued (Cmd. 3825. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 2s. 6d. net). It admits that an exact explanation of the immediate happenings leading to the disaster can never be given, owing to the lack of evidence, but by examining various hypotheses the Court has come to the unanimous conclusion that the one presented is the most plausible. This is, that there was a rapid loss of gas from one of the main forward gas bags, added to a heaviness from a gradual leakage of gas due to attrition of the bags, probably greater than was suspected. A heavy down air-current forced the nose down, and at the same time

may have either caused or accelerated an existing tear in the outer envelope. The rush of air through this, again, may have either initiated or extended a split in the inner bag. It is known that the wind was variable enough to have buffeted the nose of the ship up and down, and the height coxswain, only just on duty and fresh to the 'feel' of the elevators, had possibly over-corrected an upward deflection when the downward one caught him. He then lost height to a dangerous extent while swinging the elevators to the other extreme position, but eventually succeeded in correcting the ship's altitude. The further loss of height following this appears to have been intentional in an endeavour to make a