

of the War and one of the Russian revolution, while the concluding chapters of the latest edition of his "Orpheus" is a masterly review of post-War tendencies in religious and political thought from his special point of view, that of the philosopher and historian who sees current events broadly, not as an ephemeral manifestation of human activity, but as part of a panoramic whole in which the springs of action are deep-rooted in the principles which govern the growth of humanity and the development of civilisation. He admitted himself something of a disciple of Voltaire, and his "Orpheus", a study of the history of religion in which religions are treated as natural phenomena, aroused some antagonism by his attitude towards Christianity. His writing, in truth, was not always uncoloured by emotion, and it was this, perhaps, which sometimes rendered his judgment open to question, as in his endorsement of the authenticity of the 'antiquities' from Glazel. Yet it is a remarkable tribute to the authority and enduring quality of his work that several of his books ran through more than one edition and of the "Orpheus" there were no less than thirty-eight French editions, the translation of the last appearing in England in 1931.

DR. C. B. MARSON

DR. C. B. MARSON, recently appointed head of the Chemical Department of the Hull Municipal Technical College, died suddenly on October 26.

Dr. Marson was apprenticed to Capt. J. A. Foster, public analyst of Hull, and during most of

the War was attached to the French army at Verdun. After that he was on the chemical staff of the British Thomson-Houston Company, Rugby. He resigned that post in order to enter on a course in the Department of Coal Gas and Fuel Industries at the University of Leeds, which was terminated by his taking the B.Sc. degree with first-class honours in fuel and metallurgy, and later the Ph.D. degree. Since that time he has been in succession Gas Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, chemist on the staff of the Joint Research Committee of the Institution of Gas Engineers and the University of Leeds, and chief chemist of the Northern Coke Research Committee, stationed at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, until he took up his post at Hull a few weeks ago.

Dr. Marson was conspicuously successful in every post that he filled, and his untimely death has undoubtedly cut short a promising career.

H. J. H.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Marcus Benjamin, industrial chemist and editor of the publications of the United States National Museum, on October 22, aged seventy-five years.

Sir Dugald Clerk, K.B.E., F.R.S., who was elected president of the Institution of Civil Engineers for this year, but was unable to take office owing to ill-health, and was distinguished by his pioneer work on internal combustion engines, on November 12, aged seventy-eight years.

News and Views

H.R.H. the Duke of York, F.R.S.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK attended the ordinary meeting of the Royal Society on November 10, signed the roll, and was formally admitted a fellow by the president, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins. The Duke had been elected on June 16 last. As is generally known, the opening page in the charter book, denoting the Society's inauguration, bears the signatures "Charles-Founder", "James [Duke of York, afterwards James II.] Fellow", and "Rupert"; the latter was the cousin of the reigning monarch. But another signature—"George", is there, and posterity may well conjecture how his name comes to be subscribed in alignment with that of "Rupert", and not beneath it. There was never a George Rupert; the name was that of George of Denmark, who married the Princess Anne. Elected (or brought into) the Society on its anniversary day, in 1704, and not long after Newton became president, it was the latter who waited on the Prince that day (with others), to obtain his signature, and adherence. Queen Anne herself never signed the charter book.

The Royal Family and the Royal Society

THE election of royal personages, subsequent to
No. 3290, Vol. 130]

the year 1820, whether as patrons (being reigning sovereigns), or, as of blood relationship, is of interest. William IV (elected 1831) signed as patron. Queen Victoria inscribed her name on June 20, 1838, the Prince Consort signing below after election in 1840. King Edward VII signed when Prince of Wales, and again as patron (1901). In the former instance he had been elected in 1863, being proposed by Maj.-Gen. Sabine, the president. It would seem that it was not until March 2, 1882, whilst William Spottiswoode was president, that the Prince attended and inscribed his name. Also, in that year, his brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, was elected. Another brother, the Duke of Connaught, was elected on November 8, 1906, on the proposal of Lord Rayleigh, president, attending for admission in December following. His Royal Highness is, happily, still on the roll. His Majesty King George V was elected a fellow on June 8, 1893, when Duke of York, on the proposal of Lord Kelvin and Sir Michael Foster; on becoming Prince of Wales he then inscribed, and again in 1910 as monarch and patron. More recent times have witnessed the election and admission of Prince Arthur of Connaught (1914), His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (1919, on the proposal of Sir J. J. Thomson, president); lastly, the Duke of York.