

or three years at the most but here is the tragedy of the life of Innes. For sixteen years he was fretting and chafing at the delay, for his telescope was not erected complete with the object glass fitted until April 1925, only two years and nine months before his retirement at the age of sixty-six years.

Innes's first communication made to the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* was to correct a computational slip in Laplace. From Sydney there followed two others on the secular perturbations of the orbit of the earth by Mars and by Venus, and by a third on the methods of Gauss. It was from New South Wales too that he published his first discovery of 26 new double stars using a 6-inch equatorial without circles. This result of thirty hours observation, "will prove what a mine of wealth awaits the diligent double-star observer in the southern hemisphere". Prophetic words, for ultimately his own doubles numbered 1,200. Next at the Cape he observed η Argus and in a few years discovered 285 new doubles and published his catalogue of southern double stars. Besides this work he contributed two papers to the *Monthly Notices* on multiple systems, and a very notable communication on Jacobi's 'Nome' as a means of computing elliptic integrals.

At Johannesburg Innes established his well-known Circulars which contain the records of much of his work—but the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, *Astronomische Nachrichten*, and *Astronomical Journal* contain papers of value. His interest in celestial mechanics continued unabated but of necessity other subjects demanded and received due attention—to mention a few: Jupiter's Galilean satellites, galactic co-ordinates, variable rotation of the earth, occultations and their reduction by improved methods, continuation and completion of the work of Franklin-Adams, use of blink microscope, the invariable plane of the solar system, a new catalogue of southern

double stars, and comet orbits. It was a proud day for Innes when the University of Leyden gave him the D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) and of all his work perhaps his discovery of Proxima Centauri pleased him most.

Innes was a good friend and the wide extent of his generosity is barely suspected. In spite of his advancement, he remained to the end absolutely simple, approachable and unaffected and apparently unaware of the high regard in which he was held. Deeply interested in the work of others, he himself worked until the day of his sudden and quite unexpected death on Monday, March 13. FRANK ROBBINS.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Lieut.-Col. A. W. Alcock, C.I.E., F.R.S., professor of anthropology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and professor of medical zoology in the University of London, from 1919 until 1924, formerly superintendent of the Indian Museum and professor of zoology in the Calcutta Medical College, known for his work on Crustacea and deep-water fishes, on March 24, aged seventy-three years.

Mr. James Groves, an authority on the *Charophyta*, on March 20, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. Friedrich Rinne, formerly professor of mineralogy and petrography in the University of Leipzig, author of many works on crystallography, on March 12, aged seventy years.

Prof. Edwin C. Starks, associate professor of zoology in Stanford University, California, who was a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, aged sixty-six years.

Prof. J. Millar Thomson, F.R.S., emeritus professor of chemistry at King's College, London, president of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland in 1900-3, who was known for his work on the chemistry of ancient glasses, chemistry of pigments, etc., on March 22, aged eighty-four years.

News and Views

Early Man in East Africa

WHILE it is no longer possible on the latest interpretation of the evidence to accept the very high antiquity of Oldoway man, there appears elsewhere in this issue of NATURE (p. 477) a series of reports on the further evidence collected by Dr. Leakey in the spring of last year (not "autumn" as stated inadvertently in our note last week) which points to the early appearance of *Homo sapiens* in East Africa. We publish in full the reports of four committees, each dealing with one aspect of the evidence, presented to, and adopted by, the Royal Anthropological Institute's conference at Cambridge. The material which the committees had before them was derived from deposits at Kanjera and Kanam, two sites, about three miles apart, near Kendu, at the north-east of Victoria Nyanza, an area of old lake-beds,

well-known for its fossiliferous deposits. It comprised a part of a femur and fragments of human skulls of three individuals from Kanjera, of which one group formed a skull-cap, and a second permitted a reconstruction of the skull, and of a small fragment of human mandible from Kanam, fossil animal remains, including a considerable proportion (which has been put so high as fifty per cent) of specimens belonging to extinct forms, and two stone industries, one a pebble industry and the other Chellean. It is to be noted that at Kanjera, while the human bones comprising two groups had been washed out by the rains, two fragments of the third group were found *in situ* in association with fossil animal remains and Chellean tools. Further, the Kanam fragment of mandible was found not far from a pre-Chellean stone implement.