

the firm and of his own career. A biography of him by Dr. S. J. Reid appeared in 1909. He died at his house at Kingston-on-Thames on October 14, 1906, and was buried in Putney Vale Cemetery.

#### Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa

THE international conference which met recently in London for the consideration of measures "For the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa" has completed its deliberations. At the moment, however, it is impossible to summarise the results arrived at. The need for such a conference has long been apparent. For the creation of reservations and the enactment of legislation by individual governments, have been, it must be admitted, no more than partially successful. The difficulties in the path of those charged with the enforcement of the regulations laid down have been many; and those who have found profit in the exploitation of big game have shown a high degree of ingenuity in evading these regulations, or by specious arguments have succeeded, on occasions, in securing their modification to enable them to achieve private ends. How far the present conference will defeat opposition of this sort will be seen when its deliberations have been carefully analysed. But we trust that, among other things, some means will have been devised to put an end to the exploitation of this game by professional hunters, who organise 'Safari trips' for the pleasure of amateur hunters, and the trophy hunter. We trust, too, that much closer scrutiny will be given to requests to shoot elephants, zebra and antelopes on the plea that they are damaging crops, or carrying disease; for such pleas have been advanced more than once, as a cover for obtaining the highly marketable commodities, ivory and hides.

AN urgent appeal has already been made by the French Government for some sort of control over aeroplanes flying above the haunts of big game with deplorable results; and it also complains, as the British Government has done, of shooting game from motor-cars. The fact that at long last a serious and determined effort has been made to retain what is left of the fauna of Africa, inspires us to hope for great things. For in this fauna we have a great heritage, and a grave responsibility rests upon all who have its control within their grasp. The formation of game reserves by the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Belgium was followed by the formation of the great Kruger Park at Pretoria, the largest of its kind in the world. It would seem that this generous and carefully considered scheme, thought out by men resident in Africa, is to be followed up after a similar fashion, so far as is possible, in other parts of Africa. Only thus, indeed, can these animals be saved from extermination.

#### Physico-Psychical Experiments

IN the third Frederic W. H. Myers memorial lecture, which was delivered before the Society for Psychical Research on October 25, and of which an English edition has just been issued ("Supernormal

Aspects of Energy and Matter": London, 1933), Dr. Eugène Osty, the director of the Institut Méta-psychique, Paris, reviewed the recent experiments with the medium, Mr. R. Schneider. He described the nature of the apparatus employed through the use of which it is claimed that the medium is capable of demonstrating his power of externalising a 'force', or substance, the effects of which can be registered at a distance from him. In the course of the address, the speaker maintained that Mr. Schneider possessed exceptional powers, which he was able to exercise over the material world when in a special physiological state designated as *trance*. In this condition his behaviour is as if he knew and could control "the primordial resources of life and processes of creation". The method of demonstrating this alleged action at a distance was to study its effect on infra-red rays which occupied a certain area. Interruptions and absorptions occurred which were registered photographically, and shown to be connected with the respirations of the medium. Attempts were made to photograph the invisible substance, but were not successful; Dr. Osty is of the opinion that plates sensitive enough to the radiations have not yet been produced.

IN defending the experiments against those who have ventured to criticise them, Dr. Osty is at pains to explain the reasons for his suppression of facts considered by his critics to be of some importance. He states that any attempt at fraud on the part of the medium would have been followed by an exposure *in flagrante delicto*. Moreover, the reliability of the results indicated that the publication of the full details was unnecessary. A tall screen cut off the apparatus and the infra-red field from all those present. If doubts were expressed, the experiments could be repeated and the results verified. In conclusion, Dr. Osty touched upon the philosophical significance of the phenomena of the occultation of the infra-red; and stated that it was the same as that suggested by the materialisations of other mediums, such as the late Mr. Guzik, although he can scarcely be unaware that this medium was caught *in flagrante delicto* and repeatedly exposed. In order to assist the reader to understand the disposition of the apparatus used in the experiments, a diagram of the laboratory is printed, although no scale is given and the position of the tall screen is not indicated.

#### Improvements in the Autogiro

AN improved model of the autogiro, demonstrated at Hanworth aerodrome recently, marks a decided advance towards the simplification of ordinary straightforward flying, landing in small areas, and safety in emergency landings. Change of orientation of the machine in any direction is obtained by tilting the universally-mounted rotating planes, there being no ailerons, elevators, or rudder. The machine swings pendulum fashion beneath the rotors as they are tilted, bringing the propeller thrust-line into any desired direction. Correct bank for a turn is thus quite automatic. The rotor universal joint is carried