

since his boyhood in natural history, Dr. Christ took the opportunity while in Berlin to attend the excursions of Prof. Alexander Braun, and his natural inclinations were greatly stimulated by his intercourse with that eminent botanist. In his reminiscences, written on the occasion of his ninetyeth birthday, Dr. Christ relates with what great interest he read von Humboldt's works on the geographical distribution of plants, and on returning to Basle, he began to devote himself to this field of botany, publishing several short papers on special aspects of the flora of Switzerland, the substance of which he gathered together with further observations in his "Pflanzenleben der Schweiz" published in 1879.

Dr. Christ's interest in systematic botany was equally keen and his legal training seemed, as has been the case with other eminent botanists, to be of distinct help to him in sifting scientific evidence. He occupied himself with the difficult genus *Rosa* on which he published his account of "Die Rosen der Schweiz" in 1873, and sixty years later, in his hundredth year, he published a further paper on this favourite subject of his dealing with the roses of the Canton Valais. Other contributions to systematic botany dealt with the European conifers and with the European sedges, another difficult genus. But it is with the group of ferns that Dr. Christ's name will remain most closely associated. "The Ferns of Switzerland", "The Ferns of the World" and the "Geographical Distribution of Ferns" are three standard works which will always be consulted by peridologists. His industry as a botanist can be gauged from the fact that his botanical publications amount to more than three hundred and these were written during the time he could spare from his many professional activities as a lawyer, for he held an important legal post in connexion with the Swiss railways.

Neither scientific nor professional preoccupations dimmed Dr. Christ's humanitarian feelings, and on the occasion of the revelation of the Congo atrocities, he joined with Morel in organising the universal protest against the cruelties of the slave trade in Africa, and was one of the founders of the Swiss league for the protection of the natives in the Congo State.

The influence of a man of such wide interests and insatiable activity carried on during an exceptionally long life has been felt far beyond the limits of his beloved town and country, and his untimely death, as one may call his passing away so near to the completion of his centenary anniversary, will be mourned by all his admirers, who will however keep him and his labours in grateful remembrance.

WE regret to announce the following deaths.

Dr. Lilian J. Clarke, for several years head science mistress at James Allen's Girls' School, Dulwich, and member of many committees on the teaching of biology, on February 12, aged sixty eight years.

Dr. D. W. Freshfield, president of the Royal Geographical Society in 1914-17, of Section E (Geography) of the British Association in 1904, and of the Association of Geographical Teachers in 1897-1910, on February 9, aged eighty-eight years.

Dr. Bernard Hollander, a well-known authority on diseases of the nervous system, and author of books on psychology, eugenics, and related subjects, on February 6, aged sixty-nine years.

Sir Lionel Jacob, K.C.S.I., chief engineer and secretary to the Government of Burma in 1903-5; inspector-general of irrigation; and secretary, Government of India (Public Works Department) in 1905-11, on February 9, aged eighty years.

## News and Views

### Evolution of the Mind

WITH his customary lucidity, Prof. Elliot Smith has presented, in the Royal Institution discourse which accompanies this issue of NATURE as a special supplement, an account of the present position of his researches in organic neurology in conjunction with the results of other workers, particularly Campion and Le Gros Clark. The result is not only a notable step forwards towards an understanding of the complex temporo-spatial relationships which from one point of view are designated the brain and its related mechanisms, and from another mental function, but it is also an effective counterblast to recent efforts prematurely to recrystallise Sir Henry Head's outstanding contribution to our understanding of sensory integration in forms of merely clinical application. It is to be hoped that the danger to true progress in neurology resident in these efforts has been, if not averted, at all events withstood for the time being. Poljak's

demonstration that even in the respect act of thought or skill the whole neopallium must participate reinforces the question, in respect of 'localisation'—the concern of clinicians—localisation of what? The present contribution emphasises again the integrity of the brain as a whole as the effective instrument of a biological objective in action rather than in thought. It may be said that with each advance in the evolutionary scale as well as in our understanding, the number of the neurological constituents of action is seen to increase.

It is not only that for the acquisition of the characteristic modes of the human *mind* a cognitive is added to an affective experience and to both is added a conative experience; but also for the development of the characteristic functions of the human *brain* a subtler progression eventuates, having little regard or none for these concepts of the schools. In his most recent revelation of the stages of this