

amongst others, by his medical knowledge Dr. Gimlette was to forge a link between the plant as such and as a drug. A happy collaboration with Mr. I. H. Burkhill led to the publication of a translation of the "Malay Book of Medicine" by Inche Ismail (*Gardens Bulletin*, Singapore, 6, 1930); to this is appended a 'catalogue raisonnée' of very great value. Thereafter, in conjunction with Messrs. Skeat and Thomson, he started on a more comprehensive and ambitious work to be entitled 'The Malayan Medical Dictionary'. This work, though more than half done, is interrupted by his death; however, it is hoped that his collaborators will be able to complete it without undue delay. He was also the author of many minor contributions on medical subjects. During the War he was in charge of a hospital ship (*Essiquibo*).

From his retirement from active service, Dr. Gimlette was condemned to a sedentary life through the unfortunate loss of a leg from intense erysipelatosus infection, but he stuck to his self-imposed tasks with courage and pertinacity. With the cardinal virtues of sincerity and thoroughness, no more loyal or lovable friend could be

found, and there are very many who mourn his loss, whilst admiring his constancy of purpose in good and in failing health, though withal cheerful and of good heart.

A final note of sympathy must be struck for his devoted widow, two small daughters, his sisters and other relatives. H. E. DURHAM.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Biological Survey, known for his work on the birds and mammals of North and Central America, on May 19, aged seventy-nine years.

Sir Walter P. Buchanan-Riddell, Bt., principal of Hertford College, Oxford, in 1922-29, chairman of the University Grants Committee, on June 5, aged fifty-five years.

Mr. J. J. Fahie, author of several standard volumes on the life and work of Galileo, on June 12, aged eighty-seven years.

Maj.-Gen. George O. Squier, K.C.M.G., member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, known for his work in connexion with electrical communications, on March 24, aged sixty-nine years.

News and Views

International Conference on Physics

A MEETING of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics will be held in October next in London and a joint conference will be held with the Physical Society, under the presidencies of Prof. R. A. Millikan and Lord Rayleigh. The last meeting of the Union took place in 1931 at Brussels (see NATURE of September 19, 1931, p. 485), when an invitation from the Royal Society to meet in London was withdrawn in order to enable the Union to accept the American invitation for a meeting at Chicago at the Century of Progress Exhibition in 1933. Prof. R. A. Millikan was elected president, but on account of economic conditions the meeting was cancelled and the Royal Society renewed its invitation to meet in London. The invitation was accepted and the meeting will be held on October 1-6. The work of the Union will include consideration of the report of the Commission on Symbols, Units and Nomenclature appointed at its last meeting. The Commission, under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Glazebrook, has dealt with electrical, calorimetric and thermometric units and work has also been done in connexion with radiometric and acoustical units. Dr. Hales' committee on Instruments and Instrumental Methods will, it is anticipated, desire to consult the Union on a number of questions. Apart from this formal business, it was felt that the occasion should also be utilised for international discussion on a subject or subjects now attracting general interest; certain aspects of the solid state of matter were suggested as suitable.

THE Physical Society had already decided to hold a Conference on Nuclear Physics and it was agreed to combine the two proposals. Thus the meeting will

take the form of an International Conference, on the joint invitation of the International Union and the Physical Society, under the presidencies of Prof. Millikan and Lord Rayleigh; the details are being arranged by a committee representing the two bodies. The discussion on nuclear physics will be opened by Lord Rutherford with a general survey of the subject. Subsequent papers will deal with cosmic radiation, β -ray transformation of radioactive elements, artificial transmutations by α -rays, neutrons, protons and diplotons and new types of radioactivity, and the constitution of atomic nuclei. Sir William Bragg will deliver an opening survey in the discussion on the theory of the solid state of matter. Papers on interatomic forces will be divided into three groups dealing with electrovalent linkings, covalent linkings and van der Waals attractions; as special consideration will be given to the action of these forces in metals at the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association, this particular section of the subjects will not be so fully considered at this discussion. Another group of papers will deal with the possible existence of a secondary structure in crystals, coarser than the fine structure detected by X-rays, and its relation to physical properties. The names of delegates of national unions adhering to the International Union of Physics should be sent to the secretaries of the Conference not later than August 1. Invitations are being sent to a number of physicists known to be interested in these subjects; others desiring to attend should send in their names not later than September 1. All communications should be addressed to the Secretaries, International Conference on Physics, Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.