

which with his invariable sense of duty he demitted in 1922; but he did not cease to attend the meetings. He was present at Cambridge in 1925, when the University conferred an honorary degree upon him.

Baillaud's work was for the most part administrative and official, so there is comparatively little to signalise personally, and that is technical; but he was a good mathematician, and contributed many discussions upon the usual subjects. He retired in 1926, and lived until the present year in the south of France, chiefly about Toulouse, or the Pyrenees, to which he was much attached.

He was a man of many friends, and incapable of rancour. In his long retirement he became, as a relative writes, *toute bonté*. R. A. S.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. B. J. Collingwood, O.B.E., professor of physiology in the University of London, on August 9.

Prof. G. Dreyer, C.B.E., F.R.S., professor of pathology in the University of Oxford, on August 17, aged sixty-one years.

Prof. W. M. Hicks, F.R.S., formerly professor of physics and also first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, on August 17, aged eighty-three years.

Prof. W. McF. Orr, F.R.S., lately professor of pure and applied mathematics at University College, Dublin, on August 14.

News and Views

Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, C.B.E., F.R.S.

At the August general meeting of the Zoological Society of London, it was announced that Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell would retire from the secretaryship at the annual meeting next April, and the Council would nominate Prof. Julian S. Huxley for election as his successor. For the past thirty years, Sir Peter has done so much towards making the Zoological Gardens more attractive to the public, while adding to the opportunities which they afford for scientific research, that his retirement marks the end of a brilliant epoch in the history of the Society. Only those who have been closely associated with him can realise the indebtedness of the Council to his ever-ready initiative and inspiration in the undertakings which they have entrusted to his tactful direction. One of his earliest tasks was the removal of the offices, library, and meeting room from Hanover Square to a new building in the Gardens, where there was more ample and convenient accommodation. A small extension to the Gardens was then arranged, in return for the provision of some paddocks open to public view in Regent's Park. The Mappin Terraces soon followed as a generous gift, and eventually the Society was induced to risk great expenditure in placing under the Terraces the Aquarium, which was so well planned and arranged that public appreciation returned the outlay almost at once. The new buildings for apes and monkeys, reptiles, and insects, besides rearrangements for the parrots and smaller birds, and the provision of an adequate sanatorium, should also be mentioned; nor must the new and comparatively luxurious refreshment houses be forgotten. Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, however, will always be best remembered by the great share he took in the acquisition, planning, and organising of the Zoological Society's country park at Whipsnade, where wild animals live under almost natural conditions, and can be studied in ways for which there is no provision in an ordinary menagerie.

THROUGHOUT his administration, Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell has always encouraged the use

of the Society's collection for scientific research. His own work on the anatomy of vertebrates came nearly to an end with his great memoir on the intestinal tract in mammals in the Society's *Transactions* in 1905, but he continued to stimulate others in the prosectorium, and he organised new lines of investigation. He induced a succession of pathologists to join the staff, and they have now for many years published valuable results, besides helping to improve the health of the animals. Parasites have been systematically collected and studied; and for some time after its foundation the scientific problems of the Aquarium were examined by a special assistant. The scientific meetings of the Society have been arranged to make a wider appeal to the fellows, and most of the technical papers are now taken as read for publication in the *Proceedings*. Sir Peter, indeed, will hand on to his successor an admirable organisation for making the best use of the scientific resources of the Society. He retires with the best wishes of zoologists for the enjoyment of his well-earned leisure, which will enable him to return to the quiet contemplation of the subjects which he has made his own.

Centenary of Sprengel, 1834-1906

AMONG the many men of science of German birth who during last century made England their home was Herman Johann Philipp Sprengel, F.R.S., the centenary of whose birth occurs on August 29. Born at Schillerslage near Hanover, he studied physics and chemistry at Göttingen and Heidelberg, taking the degree of Ph.D. in 1858. In January 1859 he came to England and for three years was associated with Brodie at Oxford. He then settled in London and engaged in research work at the Royal College of Chemistry and in the laboratories at Guy's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals. From 1865 until 1870 he was chemist at Farmer's chemical works in Kennington, after which he devoted himself mainly to his own inventions. He was elected F.R.S. in 1878 and in 1903 the title of professor was bestowed upon him by the German Emperor. He died suddenly on January 14, 1906. Sprengel will always be remembered for his invention in 1865 of the dynamic