

Jackson-Gwilt medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Mr. Espin invented a spectroscope, a variable-power eyepiece and Espin's star detector. On Röntgen's discovery of X-rays, he built several high tension machines, culminating in a huge 24-plate Wimshurst, with which for many years he treated invalids from all over the country. In recent years, with the collaboration of W. Milburn, his astronomical assistant, he investigated the radioactivity of local spring waters and published the results in his observatory circular for 1933.

During the later years of his life, when he was unable to spend long hours in the observatory, Espin made and examined rock sections from his specimens collected abroad, especially of those from Vesuvius, Etna and Les Puys de Dôme. His scientific interests were thus very wide, and he brought both observation and thought to bear on many objects upon the earth as well as in the heavens. There are now few natural philosophers of his type, and his death has deprived the world of one who contributed much to its knowledge.

MR. ERNEST BINFIELD HAVELL, whose death at the age of seventy-three years occurred on December 30, was well known as one of the foremost authorities on Indian art, architecture and technology. He first went to India as superintendent of the Madras School of Art, and in 1896 was transferred to the

Calcutta School, retiring from the Education Service in 1908. While at Calcutta he founded what has since come to be known as the Calcutta school of painting, and it was largely owing to his interest in indigenous industries that the village hand-loom industry was revived. An intense and enthusiastic appreciation of the aims of Indian art, especially of the Mogul and Rajput schools, was the basis of his conviction that the only future possible for a living school of art in India lay in an evolutionary development of the indigenous art, free from the influence of European ideals and methods. The enthusiastic welcome and support his views received from the Nationalist party in India proved an embarrassment rather than an assistance when, after his retirement, he endeavoured to promote in England a better understanding of India's artistic achievement. Mr. Havell was a voluminous writer on Indian art and technology, his best-known work being a "Handbook of Indian Art" (1920).

We regret to announce the following deaths :

Mr. H. G. Ponting, the official photographer to the Scott Expedition of 1910-13 to the South Pole, on February 7, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. Arthur Thomson, emeritus Dr. Lee's professor of anatomy in the University of Oxford, president of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 1906, on February 7, aged seventy-six years.

News and Views

Ethnographical Films

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused by a recent announcement that the Trustees of the British Museum have accepted the donation of a cinematograph film of the life of the Worora tribe of the Kimberley district of north-west Australia. The film was presented by Mr. H. R. Balfour of Melbourne. It was taken on the Government Native Reserve of Kunmunya, and shows the present conditions of native life. Technological processes, such as the making of stone axes and spear heads, in which these people are specially skilled, the making of fire by twirling one stick on another, the spinning of human hair for thread and the like are shown as living crafts. The 'shots' also include ceremonies and dances and an emu corroboree. The film has already been shown to missionaries, learned societies and medical students in Australia; but as is explained by Sir George Hill in a letter to *The Times* of February 7, owing to the fact that it was taken on a Government reserve, under the regulations of the Commonwealth Government, it cannot be shown commercially. With the permission of the Trustees of the Museum, arrangements have been made for the film to be shown at a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute to be held on March 19 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, but only fellows of the Institute and their guests can be admitted. A description of the film has been supplied

by the Rev. J. R. B. Love, who is superintendent of the reserve and is well acquainted with the language of the Worora.

ALTHOUGH this film will, no doubt, prove of the greatest interest as an ethnographical record, it is by no means unique. The cinematograph camera has long been used as an adjunct to ethnographical exploration. One of the earliest records of this kind was the series taken by Prof. C. G. Seligman when a member of the Cooke Daniels-Seligman expedition to New Guinea thirty years ago, which was shown at the Leicester meeting of the British Association in 1907; and the late Sir Baldwin Spencer showed a detailed record of the life and corroborees of the natives of northern Australia at a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1914. The diffidence felt by the Trustees of the British Museum in accepting the gift, notwithstanding the fact that it was a 'non-flam' film, has directed attention to the fact that the British Museum possesses one other film only, and that there is no official collection in Britain of these extremely valuable records of the life of primitive peoples, now rapidly passing away.

THE possibility of forming such a collection or repository was one of a number of points connected with the making, selection and preservation of cinematograph films of anthropological and ethnographical