

Hülsem was an honorary D.Litt. of the University of Oxford and of Columbia University, New York, where he had delivered a course of lectures. In 1917 he was appointed honorary professor in the University of Heidelberg, and shortly before his death he was informed of his election to be one of the nine honorary members of the Pontifical Academy of Arts and Archaeology, Rome.

#### MR. JOHN FRASER

JOHN FRASER was born on January 31, 1854, at Newdean, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, and died in Charing Cross Hospital on January 24, 1935, from pneumonia following injuries received in a road accident.

Mr. Fraser was well known both as a horticulturist of high repute and as a critical student of the British flora. In horticulture he received training at the old Chiswick gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society and at Kew. In May 1885 he commenced work in the Jodrell Laboratory, Kew, for Sir John Lubbock, afterwards Lord Avebury, and the connexion thus established lasted for many years. Fraser was responsible for much of the detailed work underlying Lord Avebury's classical researches on seedlings, pollen, buds, stipules and other botanical subjects. He also edited or contributed to many well-known horticultural publications.

As a field collector and observer and a herbarium investigator, Fraser was held in high esteem by a wide circle of botanical friends. In his later years he specialised on the taxonomically difficult genera

*Mentha* and *Salix*, and his published accounts of these genera give evidence of a clear logical mind and considerable ability in concise description. His fine herbarium collections of about nine thousand sheets, together with his manuscript notebooks, have been presented, at his written desire, to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by members of his family. There are many valuable Scottish gatherings among his specimens, and the flora of Surrey is particularly well represented. His collection of seedlings of British plants, numbering several hundred sheets, must be unique, and will be of great value in future investigations of life-histories.

Fraser was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society in 1889, and the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society conferred on him the Victoria Medal of Horticulture in 1922 and the Veitch Memorial Medal in 1929.

W. B. TURRILL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Mr. Eric H. S. Bruce, editor of the *Aeronautical Journal* in 1899-1908, well known for his work in aviation, especially on balloons, kites and airships, on February 28, aged eighty years.

Prof. William Duane, professor of biophysics in Harvard University since 1917, an authority on radioactivity and X-rays and their application to the treatment of disease, aged sixty-three years.

Mr. W. J. A. Grant, a member of several Arctic expeditions, after whom Cape Grant in Alexandra Land was named, on March 10, aged eighty-three years.

### News and Views

#### A British Magnetic Survey Vessel

THE explanatory statement by the First Lord of the Admiralty, which was presented with the Navy Estimates for 1935 to the House of Commons on March 6, contained the interesting information that it has been decided to construct a magnetic survey vessel. A first instalment of £10,023 towards the construction of this vessel has been included in this year's estimates. The unfortunate destruction by explosion and fire of the *Carnegie* on November 29, 1929, while in harbour at Apia, Western Samoa, brought the valuable work which had been carried on by this vessel to a sudden conclusion. Constructed for, and maintained by, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, she had in six cruises between 1909 and 1921 traversed 252,702 nautical miles in 3,267 days actually at sea. Of the seventh cruise of 110,000 nautical miles, nearly one half had been completed upon the arrival of the *Carnegie* at Apia; this cruise was planned particularly with the view of determining magnetic secular variation.

THE magnetic charts published by the British and other Governments for use at sea have been based in recent years to an increasingly large extent upon the data provided by the *Carnegie*. There are some serious gaps in the present data, which would have

been filled if the *Carnegie* had completed her last cruise. Due partly to these gaps and to a recent rapid change in the secular variation in the Indian Ocean, the extrapolated values of the magnetic elements in the southern Indian Ocean are now unreliable, and the possibility of serious errors in this and other areas in future charts has given rise to some concern. The Carnegie Institution, having definitely decided not to replace the *Carnegie*, and in view of the special interest of Great Britain, as the principal maritime nation, in the accuracy of the magnetic charts, the British Government has assumed the responsibility. A non-magnetic ship is to be constructed, primarily for the purpose of determining magnetic data at sea. Details of the design have not yet been decided upon, though it is probable that the new vessel will be larger than the *Carnegie*.

#### Refugee Scholars

A PAMPHLET entitled "A Crisis in the University World" issued last week by the High Commissioner for Refugees from Germany (obtainable free of charge from the General Secretary, Academic Assistance Council, Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, W.1) gives an account of the assistance to displaced German scholars and men of science during the past two years. Approximately 650 of the