

MR. W. R. BUTTERFIELD

THE town of Hastings has suffered a grievous loss through the death of its museum curator and librarian. William Ruskin Butterfield came from Bradford in 1894 as a school teacher, and soon began to take a prominent part in the work of local scientific societies as a field naturalist. In 1905 he was appointed curator of the museum in the Brassey Institute, Hastings, and in 1909 librarian of its reference library, both of which under his care grew greatly in importance as centres for the study of the natural history, archæology and arts of south-east Sussex. In 1929 the mansion of John's Place was purchased by the town as a home for the museum. This gave Butterfield his opportunity. In its new quarters under his skilful hands the museum became a live thing, each room the sanctuary of a particular science or art. Meanwhile, the reference library was rehoused in the old museum, and a lending library and reading rooms were added. The whole was a wonderful achievement for a man constitutionally unable to delegate responsibility; but a breakdown in health followed. From this, Butterfield recovered sufficiently to set up as an annexe to the museum the "Indian Durbar Hall" (from the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886) which had been given to the town by the late Lord Brassey, and to arrange in it with his old skill the collections of "The Voyage of the Sunbeam", but he never regained complete health and died suddenly on March 24 at the age of sixty-two years.

Butterfield was a great Nature lover and an

accurate observer, and he contributed papers to the *Museums Journal*, of which he was for a time editor, and to local scientific periodicals. His knowledge of the locality embraced not only his favourite subjects of birds and insects, but also every branch of natural history and archæology. This first-hand knowledge made him an excellent expositor, whether in the museum or on Nature rambles, and many hundreds of townfolk must owe their first interest in science to his inspiration. T. S. D.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Robert Blair, education officer of the London County Council in 1904-24, on June 10, aged seventy-six years.

Mr. J. T. Cunningham, lecturer in zoology in Queen Mary (East London) College in 1917-26, on June 5, aged seventy-six years.

Mr. Daniel Nicol Dunlop, O.B.E., a director of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, and a founder of the World Power Conference, on May 30, aged sixty-seven years.

Prof. R. M. Holman, associate professor of botany in the University of California, an authority on the longevity and germination of pollen, and author of well-known botanical textbooks, on April 23, aged forty-nine years.

Prof. Alice Werner, C.B.E., emeritus professor of Swahili and the Bantu languages in the University of London, on June 9, aged seventy-five years.

News and Views

The Actonian Prize of the Royal Institution

THE Managers of the Royal Institution have awarded the Actonian Prize for 1935, of one hundred guineas, to Mr. W. T. Astbury, for his papers on "X-ray Studies of the Structure of Hair, Wool and Related Fibres". The Prize is awarded septennially, and is given, in the quaint phrasing of the deed of trust of the Acton Endowment, to the "author of the best essay illustrative of the wisdom and beneficence of the Almighty in such department of science as the said Committee of Managers for the time being of the said Institution shall in their discretion select". It is provided that the award may be made in respect of essays or papers already published. Mr. Astbury was for some years an assistant in the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution, working with Sir William Bragg on various problems in connexion with the X-ray analysis of crystal structure. He left the Laboratory in 1928, and is now lecturer in textile physics and director of the Textile Physics Research Laboratory of the University of Leeds. He has applied the X-ray technique acquired during his earlier work to textile problems, and the Actonian Prize is awarded to him in respect of the two valuable papers, under the general title given above, published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*.

Dewar Research Fellowship

THE bequest by Lady Dewar of a sum of money for the furtherance of research in the Royal Institution, in memory of the work of her husband, the late Sir James Dewar, has already been announced. The Managers of the Royal Institution have resolved, as the best method of giving effect to Lady Dewar's wishes, to establish a Dewar Research Fellowship, and conditions governing the award of the Fellowship have now been drawn up. The research must be carried on at the Royal Institution, in a branch of science at the discretion of the Managers. The appointment, which is open to persons of either sex, will be for a period of three years in the first instance, with a possible extension to five, and will carry with it a salary of £400 a year. It is hoped to appoint the first Dewar fellow later this year, and applications are being invited through the usual channels.

Award to Sir Frederick Banting

THE Society of Apothecaries of London at a Court Dinner held in Apothecaries' Hall at Blackfriars on June 4 conferred upon the discoverer of insulin, Sir Frederick Banting, the Society's Gold Medal in Therapeutics, the highest honour which the Apothecaries' Company can bestow. After the presentation, Sir Frederick thanked the Society on behalf of those