described a giant dragon-fly, *Boltonites* [*Meganeura*] *radstockensis*, Bolton, will always have an irresistible appeal to the imagination. Eventually as a *magnum opus*, the Palæontographical Society published in 1921–22 a comprehensive monograph, which is now, and will probably remain for many years, the standard work of reference on this group of fossils. This work was recognised by the award of the Murchison Fund of the Geological Society of London in 1922 and the D.Sc. degree of the University of Bristol in the same year. He was elected a fellow of the Geological Society in 1906 and of the Zoological Society in the preceding year.

In all, Dr. Bolton published sixteen geological papers, but he will be chiefly remembered for his pioneer work in the elucidation of the Coal Measure insects. Although the genetic relationships that he suggested are admittedly tentative, they are founded on observed facts and will form the basis for future investigation on this group. F. S. WALLIS.

PROF. WILLIAM BLAIR-BELL, whose death on January 25 at the age of sixty-four years has been announced, held a high place among modern British physicians. He combined experimental methods of research with clinical observation, and did much to elucidate the control which the pituitary and other glands of internal secretion exert on the ovaries and uterus. He was gynæcologist and obstetrician to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and held the chair relating to those subjects in the University of Liverpool. In the later phase of his professional life, he sought to arrest the growth of malignant tumours by injection of a colloidal salt of lead into the veins of patients, but his results did not inspire others to adopt this mode of treatment. His best-known books are "The Sex Complex" (1916), "The Pituitary" (1919), "Some Aspects of the Cancer Problem" (1930), and "Principles of Gynæcology" (fourth edition, 1933). He received honorary degrees from the Universities of Glasgow and of Liverpool, and was elected an honorary fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., formerly president of the Medical Society of London, on February 8, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. K. C. Browning, professor of chemistry in the Military College of Science, Woolwich, on January 25, aged sixty years.

Mrs. M. French Sheldon, who made a remarkable journey from Mombasa to Mount Kilimanjaro in 1890–91 and explored the curious crater lake Chala at the south-east foot of the mountain, on February 10, aged eighty-eight years.

Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, principal in 1892–1910 of Newnham College, Cambridge, and president in 1915 of Section L (Educational Science) of the British Association, on February 10, aged ninety years.

News and Views

State Control of the Chemical Industry

EVIDENCE relating to the State control of chemical industry and its bearing on the armaments traffic and its control was submitted to the Royal Commission on the Manufacture of and Trading in Arms at the Middlesex Guildhall on February 5–6. In a written statement of evidence which covered the whole range of its enterprise from the manufacture of explosives to fertilisers, dyes, paints and lightning fasteners, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., denied that it is in any way party to any "International Armaments Ring". Military products formed only 1·8 per cent of total sales during the last five years and only 0·9 per cent of foreign sales. While not engaged in the manufacture of military products to any extent, its plant, designed for commercial products, can readily be converted to other uses should it ever become necessary. Nitric acid, which is produced in considerable quantities, is a raw material for practically all high explosives, and by-products from the hydrogenation of coal could afford intermediates used in the manufacture of high explosives. The manufacture of nitrocellulose for industrial purposes could easily be switched over to manufacture for high explosives.

THE statement by I.C.I. stressed the necessity of a well-organised chemical industry in any highly industrialised country, and particularly in one with great textile industries. The trained personnel of the dyestuffs industry and its varied and flexible plant is a definite national asset, and is not directed towards the production of mustard gas or other poison gas. The large staff of organic chemists available might be expected to make contributions in the development of pharmaceutical products comparable with those of German chemists in this field. In relation to chlorine, the statement pointed out that chlorine in the form of bleaching powder, etc., is one of the most useful and important servants of the community, and provides the only efficient means of decontamination after a mustard gas attack. In a personal statement, Sir Harry McGowan urged that nationalisation proposals are economically unsound, and suggested the establishment of a permanent supervisory body which would with due financial safeguards co-ordinate private manufacture and provide the auxiliary help necessary when the demand is in excess of the capacity of private concerns. This body would be a shadow of the Ministry of Munitions; but should be appointed by the industry itself.