Scientific distinction alone would not have given Pavlov the influence which he possessed. To distinction was added a fervent love for Russia and complete loyalty to her institutions. Not that Pavlov was a propagandist. So far as I know he took no part in politics, and that coupled with the fact that he was without guile probably contributed in no small degree to the trust which his Government placed in him.

The impression with which to end this slight tribute is that of Pavlov's home life. As he loved his country, so he loved his family. His tastes were simple; he loved digging the soil and spent his leisure largely in gardening. The prospect of, say, some new seeds filled him with enthusiasm, but they would be the seeds of some simple colourful species —for example, a new kind of poppy.

No better example than Pavlov could be quoted to illustrate the kinship between simplicity and greatness. JOSEPH BARCROFT.

Dr. G. T. Prior, F.R.S.

GEORGE THURLAND PRIOR, keeper of minerals in the British Museum from 1909 until 1927, died on March 7 at the age of seventy-three years. He went to the Department of Minerals at the Museum at the close of a successful career at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he had gained a demyship in natural science in 1881, and a first class in the Honour School in Chemistry (1885) and Physics (1886). He studied for a short time in Germany, and entered the British Museum in 1887 a few years after the opening of the new building for the Natural History Departments.

Prior's first duties at the Museum were concerned entirely with the chemical analyses of minerals, work which had hitherto been done almost entirely by Dr. Walter Flight. He was a born chemist, and excelled in the careful manipulation of small quantities of material and in the patience with which he selected and prepared his materials for analysis.

The value of Prior's work was soon recognised, and in 1900 he was awarded the Wollaston Fund by the Geological Society of London. At that time, he had begun to be interested in petrography, and in his thanks to the president of the Geological Society he spoke of his intention to make his mineralogy more geological in its character. This promise was speedily carried out, and there followed a series of papers on the petrography of the volcanic rocks of British East Africa and the antarctic continent, based on the collection of J. W. Gregory in Kenya Colony, and on those made on numerous expeditions to the Antarctic. His account of the rocks collected by H. T. Ferrar during Scott's *Discovery* expedition of 1901–4, being printed only in a British Museum publication, is less widely known than his numerous papers in the *Mineralogical Magazine*.

Prior's work in petrography is distinguished by the skill with which from among the masses of material in the rock collections at the British Museum he selected the important and interesting specimens, and clearly and briefly described their characters. His pioneer work on rocks from remote regions suggested to later workers many lines of fruitful study.

On the appointment of Sir Lazarus Fletcher to the directorship of the Natural History Museum, Prior became Keeper of Minerals. Almost at once he took up the work on meteorites begun in the Museum by Story-Maskelyne and continued by Fletcher. Here again his complete mastery of inorganic analysis led to the production of a series of chemical studies of meteorites, on which he based a classification of the greatest importance. He showed that there is a very definite and significant relation between the ratio of iron to nickel in the nickel-iron and the ratio of magnesia to ferrous oxide in the ferromagnesian silicates in a meteorite, a relation possibly accounted for by progressive oxidation acting on a common magma from which meteorites are derived.

During his keepership, Prior revised Fletcher's "Introduction to the Study of Rocks", rewrote the British Museum "Guide to the Collection of Meteorites" and completed a comprehensive catalogue of the meteorites in the British Museum collection, perhaps the finest in the world. The conclusion of this work was fittingly acknowledged by the award of the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society in 1927.

Prior's lovable, gentle character endeared him alike to friends and colleagues, and his published papers, numerous though they are, form only a part of his work, so much of which was devoted to the help of others who came constantly to seek his advice and assistance. He was general secretary from 1909 until 1927 and president in 1927–30 of the Mineralogical Society, and a vice-president of the Geological Society of London from 1921 until 1923. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1912. He married in 1914 Esther Louisa Alberta, daughter of the late Mr. Henry Cole of Cork, who survives him together with two daughters. W. C. S.

ACCORDING to a note in the *Chinese Journal of Physiology*, 1935, Eric Reid, of the Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai, died there on November 24, 1935. Reid was born on October 3, 1906, at Gamrie, in Banffshire, Scotland. In 1929–32 he worked at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, upon the absorption of foodstuffs, chiefly carbohydrates and phosphates, from the alimentary canal. Going to Shanghai in 1933, he undertook a study of basic facts regarding the composition of local foodstuffs, general dietaries and infant feeding and much of this programme was accomplished.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Harold Brown, O.B.E., for the past ten years principal of the Plant and Animal Products Department of the Imperial Institute.

Prof. J. S. Haldane, C.H., F.R.S., director of the Mining Research Laboratory and honorary professor in the University of Birmingham, at midnight on March 14–15, aged seventy-five years.