

distractions of her association with her brother, Arthur James Balfour, politician and philosopher. In her earlier days, her bent was shared and encouraged by a younger brother, Prof. F. M. Balfour, already a leader in zoology when he died at the age of thirty-one years. Later she paid particular attention to gardening, so that the garden at Whittingehame became famous for its beauty, and to the collecting of a full series of the butterflies and moths of East Lothian. Her knowledge of the specific characters and local distribution of these and of other living things was thorough, and her inquiries brought her often to the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, to which she left her natural history collections.

It would be misinterpreting Miss Balfour's life to regard science as dominating her outlook, for her intellectual interests were wide, and her chief activities were social, in the broadest sense, and personal; but it may be said that the sustained pleasure of her life depended upon her love of Nature.

J. R.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Franklin D. Barker, professor of zoology in Northwestern University, an authority on Trematodes, on July 10, aged fifty-eight years.

M. Louis Bleriot, who made the first flight across the English Channel from Baraques, near Calais, to Dover, on July 25, 1909, in a monoplane having a three-cylinder engine of 22–25 horse-power, on August 1, aged sixty-four years.

Lieut.-General Sir Alfred Keogh, G.C.V.O., G.C.B., director-general of the Army Medical Service 1904–10 and 1914–18, and Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, 1910–22, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. E. J. Nanson, emeritus professor of mathematics in the University of Melbourne, on July 1, aged eighty-five years.

Dr. F. J. F. Shaw, director of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Government of India, aged fifty years.

## News and Views

Dr. E. J. Allen, C.B.E., F.R.S.

ON July 30, a special meeting of the Council of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom was held in the rooms of the Royal Society in order to appoint Dr. Stanley Kemp, former director of the "Discovery" expeditions to the antarctic, secretary of the Association and director of the Marine Biological Association at Plymouth, the appointment to take effect on October 1. The present director of the Station, Dr. E. J. Allen, retires at his own request on September 30 after forty-two years of arduous service to the Association. During this period, Dr. Allen has seen the Station grow from being a small and poorly equipped second-rate institution to becoming the premier marine biological station of the world. We propose to refer in a later issue to Dr. Allen's great services to zoological science.

Dr. Stanley Kemp, F.R.S.

DR. STANLEY KEMP is probably the leading authority on oceanography at present living. During the years which he spent cruising in the Antarctic, he finally elucidated the circulation of the water in that ocean and proved its bearing on the habits and life-histories of the various species of whale which go south during the brief Antarctic summer in order to feed and grow fat and during this period fall a prey to whalers. He discovered the amazing fact that the largest of them all, the Southern Fin-Whale, feeds practically exclusively on one small species of 'shrimp' about 2 inches long. The baby whale when born is 20 feet long; it grows to a length of 50 feet during its first year, and attains its full size (100 feet long) in less than five years. He showed further that each antarctic summer is characterized

by an enormous growth of diatoms on which these 'shrimps' feed and consequently a rich oxygenation of the sea-water due to photosynthesis. As this water flows north to the antarctic circle it sinks from the surface to an ultimate depth of about 600 fathoms and it takes approximately five years to reach the equator. The sequence of antarctic summers can be traced in the patches of oxygenated water which it contains, and the intensity of the oxygenation of each patch marks the degree of warmth of the corresponding summer. Dr. Kemp's appointment is therefore a happy augury for the future of Plymouth and for fishery science in general. It is becoming increasingly clear that the variations in British fisheries are connected with variations in intensity of a southward flow of arctic water carrying with it stupendous harvests of diatoms and shoals of the most sought-after edible fish. Oceanographic exploration based partly on Plymouth may be as fruitful in the endeavour to elucidate the life-histories of these fish as antarctic exploration has been in unravelling the life-history of the whale.

Archæological Investigations in Syria

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY'S report on the work of the British Museum's archæological expedition to Sueidia, near Antioch, immediately before closing down work for the season (*The Times*, July 31) records the completion of excavation in the reserved area of the harbour site and the cutting of trial trenches on and around the hill station at Sabounia, two and a half miles inland. At the latter point, while the existence of a walled town at least as early as the Mycenaean age is established, the fall of the walls through the disintegration of the sandstone cliffs, on the edge of