

two years ago with the title "The Myth of the Mystic East". In it he discussed Indian magic and miraculous cures. He insisted that there was little if anything in Indian medicine that was unknown to European medicine; and he was equally sceptical as to the Indian rope trick, as may be seen from an article on "Indian Conjuring" contributed by him to *NATURE* of September 12 last.

Of late years, Col. Elliot had taken a prominent part in the management of the British Health Resorts Association, and until his health broke down he made his driving force felt in whatever he undertook. His wife died some years ago; much sympathy will be extended to his three sons.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Captain H. J. Coningham, an authority on the geography of Asia Minor and the Caucasus, aged sixty-nine years.

Prof. Edwin O. Jordan, professor of bacteriology in the University of Chicago, known for his work on public health, on September 2, aged seventy years.

Prof. Oskar Klotz, professor of pathology and bacteriology in the University of Toronto, an authority on diseases of the arteries and the liver, on November 3, aged fifty-eight years.

Dr. Alfred Nippold, director of the Magnetic Observatory, Berlin, on October 4, aged sixty-two years.

News and Views

Rev. Wm. Tuckwell: a Pioneer of School Science

IN the first number of *NATURE* appeared an article by one of Huxley's friends, the Rev. Wm. Tuckwell, on "Science Teaching in Schools". Tuckwell was a pioneer in this work, and it was he who really first introduced a regular course of instruction amounting to no less than three hours per week per boy. The story of his career as headmaster of Taunton College School, now King's College, Taunton, is a long and interesting one. At first he met with extraordinary success, numbers of scholarships were won, and with the help of Henry Labouchere, Lord Taunton, and other influential friends the ancient school was moved to new quarters outside the town at a cost of £25,000. Then trouble arose owing to local clerical and conservative suspicion as to Tuckwell's orthodoxy; and after a furious controversy resignation was forced on him in 1877.

TUCKWELL was a man of wide culture, a good classical scholar, with a deep knowledge of English literature, and, although his work was apparently a failure, his methods were copied in schools all over the country. The school almost broke up when he left, but was later acquired by the Woodard Corporation and has since gradually risen in numbers to two hundred boarders. The pendulum has swung back again, and in 1934, Dr. R. D. Reid, a science graduate and the first layman for three hundred years, was appointed headmaster. He, wishing to recognize the work of his pioneering predecessor, sought out Mr. Tuckwell's surviving daughters, Lady Welsh, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, C.H. They have presented many of their father's books and MSS. to the school library, including a much treasured first copy of *NATURE*. They also have erected a memorial to him in the school chapel, and this will be dedicated by the Chaplain, Bishop O'Rorke, on November 29, at 6 p.m., at which service any friends would be welcomed. King's College possesses what is believed the first school laboratory, erected by Tuckwell in 1868. It is still in use, but is shortly to be demolished.

Wilhelm Ebstein

NOVEMBER 27 marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the eminent German physician Prof. Wilhelm Ebstein. He was born at Jauer, in Silesia, and studied medicine in Breslau and Berlin, where he was the pupil of Frerichs, Virchow and Romberg. After qualifying in 1859, he became physician to the All Saints Hospital at Breslau, where he did valuable work on gastric secretion and dermatology, a subject in which he always took a keen interest. He served as a medical officer in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, and in 1874 was appointed professor of medicine and director of the Polyclinic at Göttingen, where he proved himself to be an indefatigable teacher, investigator and organizer, and created a model clinic well equipped with laboratories for scientific research. He was a remarkably prolific writer, as will be seen by the list of his works compiled by his son, the late medical historian Dr. Erich Ebstein (*Deut. Arch. Klin. Med.*, **89**, 367; 1907), but he is best known for his studies on obesity, gout and diabetes. His book on diabetes and its treatment was translated into French, Danish, Swedish and Russian, and one on the nature and treatment of gout into English and French. His historical contributions included articles on the Plague of Thucydides, the English Sweat, medicine in the Bible, Linnæus as physician, and the history of chicken-pox. He retired from his chair in 1906 at the age of seventy years, but remained in active consulting practice until a few days before his death from apoplexy on October 12, 1912.

Relation of Science to War and Defence

At a public meeting organized by the Association of Scientific Workers, held at the Royal College of Science, London, on November 19, questions relating to "Defence and the Responsibilities of the Scientist" were discussed by a representative gathering of scientific workers. Prof. J. B. S. Haldane presided, and Prof. S. Chapman and Air Commodore L. E. O. Charlton opened the discussion. Prof. Chapman