

in consequence, a breach, inevitable between a College alive to the needs of the twentieth century and one who was essentially a seventeenth century antiquarian. The breach, however, brought out the best in Gunther's fighting qualities. He determined that Oxford should have a museum for the history of science that would be unique. Almost no one in Oxford but himself was interested in that kind of museum. He set out, decisively and even gallantly, to achieve his purpose. He had a talent for relating means to ends, for making just so much impression on individuals and colleges as would extract from them what he wanted, for doing just so much canvassing as was needed to gain his particular point in the courts of the University. At times he did not invite, he commanded; city magnates came to Oxford to unveil memorial windows; presidents of the Royal Society came at his bidding to commemorative luncheons; chancellors and heads of colleges signed his appeals in *The Times*. In 1924 he became the curator of the Lewis Evans collection of scientific instruments, and this nucleus became the museum for the history of science in the Old Ashmolean building in Broad Street, Oxford, in 1935. To-day the collection is unique and, but for the War, would be in a lovely setting. Gunther's single-handed fight to collect this material and to get it into the building, where it now is, will not have been in vain if someone can now be found to succeed him as curator and in the University readership in the history of science. The museum is his fine achievement, a witness to what one man by himself can do.

Gunther married Amy Neville-Rolfe, daughter of a former consul-general at Naples. He had two sons, the elder of whom was zoologist to the recent *Discovery* expeditions. A. S. RUSSELL.

Prof. D. S. Margoliouth, F.B.A.

WE regret to record the death of Prof. D. S. Margoliouth, for many years a foremost authority in Oriental studies and formerly Laudian professor of Arabic in the University of Oxford, which took place on March 22 in the Middlesex Hospital, London, at the age of eighty-one.

David Samuel Margoliouth was born in 1858 of Hebrew Polish stock. The son of an Anglican missionary to the Jews, he was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. Both at school and at the university he was of outstanding ability, and showed a remarkable and unusually early maturity in classical studies, being awarded both the Hertford and the Ireland Scholarships in his first year as an undergraduate. Later he turned to Oriental studies, winning all the University prizes open to him in this field. In 1881 he was appointed fellow and lecturer in classics; and eight years later he entered upon his occupancy of the Laudian professorship, which he held until his retirement only three years ago.

Margoliouth's knowledge of the Arabic language and literature was universally recognized as unrivalled in either Europe or the East. His unremitting activity in this branch of Oriental studies was devoted

to the editing and elucidation of the more difficult and obscure of classical Arabic texts. Here his greatest achievement was his monumental edition of Yakut's "Dictionary of Learned Men". Next to this must be ranked his work in collaboration with H. F. Amedroz on the Abbasid chronicles of Miskawaihi. Commentators on Aristotle and the Old Testament also engaged his attention—he produced an edition of the *Poetics*—and he collaborated with Dean Payne Smith in the "Thesaurus Syriacus".

Those who are acquainted with Margoliouth only through his more highly specialized literary and linguistic studies may possibly fail to realize how deep and wide were his interest in and knowledge of the content of the texts he studied and, in short, of the whole range of the thought, culture and beliefs of the peoples of the Arabic tongue. His profound knowledge of the early development of Islamic belief is to be observed in some degree in his Hibbert Lectures delivered in 1913 and in the two books which appeal to a wider audience, "Mohammed and the Rise of Islam" and "Mahammedanism", the latter a volume in the Home University Library. His erudition was ever freely at the service of those whose studies lay in any cultural sphere impinging in any way upon his own, and appeal for enlightenment was never made in vain.

The Polish Government Information Department has issued a communiqué stating that up till February 1 the following professors, among others, of Polish universities have died in the concentration camp Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, or have died since their release from camp:

Tadeusz Grabowski (philosophy);
 Antoni Hoborski (mathematics);
 Kazimierz Kostanecki (comparative anatomy);
 Jan Nowak (geology);
 Feliks Rogoziński (physiology);
 Adam Różański (agricultural mechanics);
 Michał Siedlecki (biology) [see NATURE, March 30, p. 492];
 Jerzy Smoleński (geography);
 Władysław Takliński (technology);
 Antoni Wilk (astronomy);
 Jan Włodek (agriculture).

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. J. W. Beede, formerly professor of geology in Indiana University, an authority on the geology of Texas, on February 27, aged sixty-eight years.

Prof. Alexandre Besredka, chief of the section of microbiology of the Paris Pasteur Institute, aged seventy years.

Prof. S. M. Dixon, O.B.E., formerly professor of civil engineering in and dean of the City and Guilds College, London, on March 25, aged seventy-two years.

Mr. J. A. Hobson, the well-known economist, on April 1, aged eighty-one years.

Prof. A. E. Norton, since 1935 Gordon McKay professor of applied mechanics in Harvard University, on February 24, aged sixty-two years.