character must be low. The character should be uniform over the whole distribution area of the forms so far as pure populations are concerned. Probably this is the hardest of all the conditions with which to determine agreement. Herbarium specimens and published descriptions must be consulted in most cases, and the judgment of the individual is called for in assessing the degree of agreement with the condition. An investigation of this nature is very necessary for a 'constitutive' character for, not being subject to natural selection, it may show great variability within a species. However, it must be remembered that by excessive variation such a character would cease to be 'constitutive'.

The character must be capable of easy and accurate measurement, the gradations of a colour, for example, being inferior to those of a character which can be measured with a ruler. The value of a character which can be treated more nearly objectively is that other investigators can use it with comparable results, that results obtained at different times can be compared and that an average value for a population is expressed more easily. It is a great advantage if this facility and accuracy of measurement are applicable to preserved as well as fresh material. Such material may be pickled or dried and mounted, and the changes which may occur during these processes must be taken into account. Again, the character should be measurable without removing the material from the mount or damaging it in any way.

After the most suitable characters have been selected, if it is desired to construct and use an index in the study of a population, it is preferable that characters unlikely to be affected by natural selection (that is, 'constitutive' characters) should be kept separate from those with positive or negative selection-value. Whereas the former will indicate truly the extent of hybridization, the latter, considered in conjunction, will indicate the severity of natural selection.

An examination of two interbreeding species (*Melandrium dioicum* Coss. and Germ. and *M. album* Garcke) has been made already^{23,24}, using characters selected in this way, and the method is being applied to species of *Geranium*, *Armeria* and *Arum*.

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OBITUARIES

Prof. H. P. Lewis

HERBERT PRICE LEWIS, professor of geology in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, died suddenly at his home at Borth, Cardiganshire, on January 22 in his fifty-second year. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lewis of Llangollen, and was a pupil of Llangollen County School, going thence to University College, Bangor. He served in the War of 1914-18 and was severely wounded. Proceeding to Downing College, Cambridge, he took the course in natural science, studying geology under the late Prof. J. E. Marr. He was for a short time a master at Oundle School, and in 1921 went to the University of Sheffield where, as a lecturer in geology, he was closely associated with Prof. W. G. Fearnside. In 1922 he was awarded the Daniel Pidgeon Fund by the Geological Society of London, and in 1931 the J. B. Tyrrell Fund. As holder of the latter he spent some months in Canada studying the fossil faunas of the Devonian and Carboniferous rocks. In the same year he was appointed to the professorship at Aberystwyth. He was awarded an Sc.D. of the University of Cambridge in 1940; and he served on the council of the Geological Society during 1942-44.

Prof. Lewis was an all-round geologist. He was an untiring enthusiast in the field, and organised and led some of the longer field-meetings of the Geologists' Association, and attended several of their excursions to different parts of the European Continent. In spite of a permanent disability caused by his war service, he was remarkably skilful in preparing material for the microscope and in all branches of laboratory technique. He had an exceptionally wide knowledge of geological literature, and he was always most ready with expert guidance to others, whether colleague, student or occasional inquirer.

These various interests are reflected in Prof. Lewis's published papers, which include works on petrology, stratigraphy and structural geology; but it was as a palaeontologist that he carried out his more extensive and detailed researches, specializing on fossil corals and the more difficult and obscure groups such as the calcareous Algæ, various kinds of micro-fossils and the problematical *Bolopora undosa*. He had for some years been mapping the geology of the Aran mountains in Merionethshire, but very little of this work has been published. Both in his research and in his teaching, his careful attention to accuracy and detail was a marked characteristic.

Prof. Lewis took an active part in the academic and administrative life of the College and the University of Wales, and held a responsible position in one of the churches at Aberystwyth. He was a man with the highest standards of duty and conduct, and his untimely death will be deeply felt. His wife, with two sons and one daughter, survive him.

JOHN CHALLINOR

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. David Hooper, formerly of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, on January 31, aged eighty-eight.

Dr. H. M. Tory, formerly president of the National Research Council of Canada, aged eighty-three.