

MISS ELEANOR A. ORMEROD.

UNIVERSAL regret will be felt at the death of almost our only prominent lady entomologist, and our best authority on farm and garden entomology. Miss Ormerod was born at Sedbury, in Gloucestershire, and breathed her last on July 19, 1901, in her seventy-fourth year, at Torrington House, St. Albans, where she resided for some years with her sister, Miss Georgiana Elizabeth Ormerod, who died in 1896 at the age of seventy-three.

At the time when Miss Eleanor Ormerod turned her attention to injurious insects, no popular English work existed on the subject; for Curtis's "Farm Insects" was too large and costly for wide circulation. We do not know if Mr. E. A. Fitch, who had been projecting a work on the subject himself, suggested it to Miss Ormerod, or whether the initiative came from her; but in 1877 appeared the first part of the well-known "Notes of Observations of Injurious Insects," by E. A. Ormerod, T. A. Preston and E. A. Fitch. About this time Mr. Fitch found that pressure of business prevented him from giving much attention to entomology; but for twenty-three years afterwards appeared annual reports, under the editorship of Miss E. A. Ormerod, embodying the observations of a great number of observers on those species of insects which had been most destructive, or which had attracted special attention during each year. From time to time she published detached observations in different journals on subjects of much importance connected with her favourite subject, supplementary or preliminary to her reports, and she also published several books which had a wide circulation, and some of which went through several editions. Among the most important of her separate works are the following:—"A Manual of Injurious Insects, with Methods of Prevention and Remedy for their Attacks to Food Crops, Forest Trees and Fruit, and with short Introduction to Entomology" (first edition, 1881); "Guide to Methods of Insect Life, and Prevention and Remedy of Insect Ravage" (1884); republished in 1892 under the title of "A Text-book of Agricultural Entomology"; "Notes and Descriptions of a few Injurious Farm and Fruit Insects of South Africa, compiled by E. A. Ormerod, F.R.Met.Soc., &c., with Descriptions and Identifications of the Insects by Oliver E. Janson" (1889); and "A Handbook of Insects injurious to Orchard and Bush Fruits, with Means of Prevention and Remedy" (1898).

Miss E. A. Ormerod was assisted in her work by her sister Georgiana, who was likewise an ardent entomologist, though we are not aware that she ever published anything under her own name. Both the sisters were Fellows of the Entomological Society of London, having joined in 1878 and 1880 respectively, and at one period they were regular attendants at the meetings. For some years Miss E. A. Ormerod held the appointment of consulting entomologist to the Royal Agricultural Society. She was also an examiner in agricultural entomology to the University of Edinburgh; and in 1900 that body conferred upon her the honorary degree of D.C.L.

W. F. K.

NOTES.

THE French Minister of War has asked the Paris Academy of Sciences to give an opinion as to the possibility of danger arising from the establishment of wireless telegraphy stations in the neighbourhood of magazines containing powder or other explosives. It is suggested that the nature of the cases containing the explosive may be an important matter for consideration in connection with the subject.

THREE prizes have been offered to the Marine Biological Association of the West of Scotland by Sir John Murray, K.C.B., in memory of the late Mr. Fred. P. Pullar, who was associated with him in the bathymetrical survey of the Scottish fresh water lochs, and lost his life on Airthrey Loch, Bridge of Allan, in February last. There will be a prize of 50*l.* for a paper on each of the following subjects:—(1) The seasonal distribution and development of pelagic algae in the waters of the Clyde sea area. (2) The reproduction, development and distribution in the Clyde sea area of the genera *Nyctiphanes* and *Boreophausia*. (3) The formation and distribution of glauconite in the deposits of the Clyde sea area and the adjacent seas of Scotland. These prizes are open to investigators from any part of the world who conduct observations in the several subjects at the Millport Marine Station, and who produce, at any time before January 1, 1905, papers which, in the opinion of a committee of three scientific men, to be nominated by the committee of the Association and by Sir John Murray, shall be deemed of sufficient value to merit publication. The honorary secretary of the Association is Mr. John A. Todd, 190, West George Street, Glasgow.

THE annual meeting of the British Medical Association was opened at Cheltenham on Tuesday, when Dr. G. B. Ferguson, the president, delivered an address on "Scientific Research as the Indispensable Basis of all Medical and Material Progress." In the course of his remarks, Dr. Ferguson said that medical progress owed more to the biologists and to the men of pure science than to the so-called practical men. The cell theory, for instance, originated entirely with the biologists. It led up to bacteriology, the most imposing and the most impressive department of medical biology. Bacteriology itself now rested on cultivation and staining; and if year by year more and more of the germs of disease were recognised, it was because of the improved methods of colouring and making them visible. All this strengthened his contention that the basis of modern medicine was essentially scientific. Then in surgery the discovery of the Röntgen rays had been of priceless benefit, but most certainly Röntgen was thinking of nothing less than of surgery when he made that discovery. Antitoxins, which are among the most valuable resources of remedial art, medical men owed to strictly scientific investigators. Personally, he placed much faith in the anti-typhoid inoculations of Prof. Wright, of Netley, and in the anti-tetanus serum, and he felt sure that many more equally effective means would soon be available. Dr. Ferguson next recalled the splendid work—purely scientific again—of the French and Italian investigators of malaria, together with Major Ronald Ross, Dr. Manson, and other English observers, by whom the mosquito theory had been worked out. Turning to ophthalmology, he asked what would have been its state to-day without the invention of the ophthalmoscope by the physicist Helmholtz. Then there was the marvelously successful treatment of lupus by the chemical rays of the electric arc devised by Finsen, of Copenhagen. And where would medical men be without the chemists, who had provided iodine, bromine, iodoform, chloroform, chloral and cocaine? As the result of several visits to the continental capitals he had been struck with the thoroughness and scientific spirit everywhere there manifested, very different from the anti-scientific spirit characterising most of the wealthier and more cultivated classes in this country. France, Germany and the United States educated at their Universities approximately one student in every 1500 of the population, but we were content with less than one in 2000. Yet the matter was one of life or death for the country, for more and more every year the victory and the predominance would pass to the possessors of the latest knowledge, the deepest science and the most perfect and economical processes.