and Gataker in England, have made no use of a rod at all. This implement would therefore appear to serve only as a helpful index for expressing certain states of the dowser's subconsciousness. What impressed me as peculiar in the Magdeburg demonstration was that the operator employed a heavy metallic rod instead of the traditional and more easily manipulated fork-shaped branch of a tree.

The explanation of an external physical force, as suggested by the German rod-walker, has nevertheless a large number of advocates, the best known of whom is, perhaps, Henri Mager, of France, whose views have been rejected by Barrett and Besterman and also by Gregory. This opinion has recently been revived again in a lecture before the Czecho-Slovakian Academy of Agriculture by R. Janota[2] who compares the body of the dowser to a wireless receiving set, the hands acting as the two electric poles, the legs as the earth line and the rod as the antenna. This lecturer states that just as some wireless receivers have certain defects so the human nervous systems of different individuals are not equally sensitive.

The Czecho-Slovakian Academy of Agriculture appointed a committee to investigate the phenomenon. Similar committees have been appointed in fact in many European countries but with unsatisfactory results. As Gregory has pointed out, "Testing the divining rod is difficult and promises no answer that will be universally accepted." Following the negative results reported in one test come the favorable results reported in another, as for example in the recent experiments at Johannesburg, where the celebrated English operator Stone, who used a clock spring for a rod, was reported to have been successful in finding hidden bags of gold.

With the growing population of Europe there has been a constantly increasing need of new supplies of water for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes and this want is reflected in the increasing number of dowsers, *sourciers* and *Rutengänger* who are ready to supply the demand for their services. Even those who scoff at the rod as a relic of superstition do not hesitate to employ it should the occasion arise. In this respect they are following the attitude of Sir Herbert Maxwell, who once remarked, "I don't believe in the divining rod, but I don't deny that its virtues are genuine; and were I in straits to find water, I should employ without hesitation a professional water finder—rod and all—if there remains one so successful as Mullins was."[3]

OBITUARY

JUR. PHILIPTSCHENKO

JUR. PHILIPTSCHENKO, professor of genetics, died of meningitis on May 19, 1930, at Leningrad. He was born on February 1, 1882, in the family of an agriculturist-scientist residing in the province of Orel. After graduating at the University of Petersburg, in 1906, he continued studying for his professorship at the Zoological Cabinet of the university. In 1912 he presented his dissertation on the embryology of Apterygota, and the degree of master of zoology was conferred on him for it. In 1917 Jur. Philiptschenko obtained his doctorate on presenting another dissertation on the variability and heredity of the skull in mammals. In the meanwhile, he was elected first assistant professor, then reader in zoology, and in 1919 professor of the University of Petersburg, where he established the first chair of genetics in Russia and founded a new school of young geneticists. Besides his work at the university he gave lectures at several other superior schools. Since 1920 Professor Philiptschenko was in charge of the laboratory of genetics and experimental zoology in the Institute for Research in Natural Sciences at Peterhof. In 1921 he became chief of the bureau of eugenics and genetics at the Academy of Sciences. Some months before his demise Professor Jur. Philiptschenko was placed at the head of the department of genetics of the Institute of Animal Industry of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences in U. S. S. R.

His works, nine of which represent large manuals of genetics and experimental zoology, amount to 114 in number.

The publications of the earlier period of Professor Philiptschenko's scientific work (1905–1913) supply valuable data pertaining to the domain of anatomy and embryology of Apterygota; those of the later part (1914–1930) furnish important facts relating to genetics of animals and plants.

Professor Philiptschenko devoted the last seven years of his life to the study of the variability and heredity of quantitative characters in soft wheats, as well as of the process of development of the ear in wheat. Five of his works on these subjects were published in Germany, and a monograph by him on the genetics of soft wheats is being issued.

Professor Philiptschenko was a member of several Russian and foreign scientific societies as: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Vererbungswissenschaft, the Amer-

[2] Bulletin of the Czecho-Slovakian Academy of Agriculture, Vol. VI, No. 2, pp. 190–197, with report of discussion, *ibid.*, pp. 198–202. See also abstract, *Internat. Review of Agriculture*, Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Science, May, 1930, p. 162.

[3] "Memoirs of the Months," I, 103–106: (1897).

ican Genetic Association, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Züchtungskunde, Société de morphologie de Paris, etc.

As to his personality, it should be mentioned that he was not only an eminent scientific investigator and a brilliant lecturer, but also an exceptional man, well known for his inexhaustible energy, kindness and responsiveness to the needs of all those who surrounded him. His death was a heavy blow to every one who knew him closely and a great loss for science.

M. RIMSKY-KORSAKOW
V. DOGIEL
M. ROZANOVA
T. LUS
T. LIEPIN

MEMORIALS

A MEMORIAL meeting in honor of the late Dr. Henry Leffmann was held in the auditorium of the Wagner Free Institute of Science on January 16, with addresses by Dr. Wilmer Krusen, president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science; Dr. Howard McClenahan, president of the Franklin Institute, and Dr. Samuel T. Wagner, Jr., treasurer of the Wagner Free Institute of Science.

AN oil painting of Graham Bell, by Mr. W. W. Russell, R.A., was presented to the British Institution of Electrical Engineers by Sir Hugo Hirst on January 8.

THE council of the senate of the University of Cambridge has appointed the following committee to arrange for the celebration of the centenary of James Clerk Maxwell: The Vice-Chancellor, Sir J. J. Thomson; Mr. W. Spens, master of Corpus Christi College; Sir Joseph Larmor, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Dr. C. D. Broad, Professor H. F. Newall, Sir Arthur Eddington, Professor C. T. R. Wilson, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Dr. J. Chadwick, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, and Sir James Jeans.

THE centenary of the birth of the celebrated syphilologist Alfred Fournier will be celebrated on May 12, 1932, under the presidency of Dr. Lucien Hudelo, president of honor of the French Society of Dermatology and Syphiligraphy. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. Sicard de Plauzoles, 44, Rue de Lisbonne, Paris, VIII^{e}.

ON the occasion of the opening of the Pasteur pavilion of the Instituto Bacteriológico of the National Department of Hygiene of Buenos Aires, which pavilion is devoted to studies of plague and mycology, a plaque was unveiled in honor of Pasteur. The president and ministers of the government of Argentina and representatives of the principal medical societies were present. The diplomatic representative of France, and Drs. C. Nicole, G. Araoz Alfaro and Ponce de Leon, made addresses.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. W. A. LIPPINCOTT, professor of poultry husbandry at the University of California since 1923, has died at the age of forty-nine years.

THE death at the age of fifty-six years is announced of Dr. Frederick J. Pritchard, senior plant physiologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

EDGAR STEINER THOMSON, professor of ophthalmology at the Manhattan Post-Graduate School of Ophthalmology, Otology and Laryngology and at the New York Polyclinic Graduate Medical School from 1912 to 1917, has died at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. WILLIAM A. JONES, professor of mental and nervous diseases for ten years, 1909 to 1919, at the University of Minnesota, and president of the State Board of Health from 1905 to 1917, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. FELIX LÖHNIS, head of the laboratory of agricultural bacteriology at the University of Leipzig, has died at the age of fifty-seven years. Dr. Löhnis was in 1914 appointed soil bacteriologist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and in 1923 was made senior bacteriologist in charge of the office of soil bacteriology investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry. He resigned in 1925 to go to Leipzig.

Nature records the death of Mr. T. F. Bourdillon, formerly conservator of forests, Travancore, on December 19, aged eighty-one years, and of Professor Pierre Termier, inspector-general of mines and director of the service de la carte géologique, who was elected in 1909 a member of the Section of Mineralogy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, aged seventy-one years.

DR. A. O. THOMAS, professor of paleontology in the University of Iowa, died on January 13 at the age of fifty-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXHIBITION OF THE PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON

THE twenty-first annual exhibition of the Physical Society and the Optical Society was opened by Sir Arthur Eddington at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, on January 6. According to the account in the London *Times* the exhibition included a great variety of electrical, optical and other physical apparatus, much of it on view for the first time. The first evening discourse was delivered by Mr. E.