SUMMARY

The passing away of Prof. *P. S. Bodenheimer* brought to a sudden stop fourty years of constant and devoted activity, that contributed so much to the advancement of various branches of zoology, and to entomology in particular. It would not be just — writes Dr. *J. Rivnai* in an obituary article — to attempt even a summary of Prof. Bodenheimer's achievements within the confines of a single article.

It was in 1921, with the foundation of the Agricultural Research Station, that Bodenheimer was invited to head the Department of Entomology — an event that marked the beginning of the systematic study of entomology in this country. Before that time, entomologists had done sporadic work on isolated problems, but now, farmers suddenly became aware of the existence of the new department: active, and lead by a dynamic personality.

In the field of *taxonomy,* Bodenheimer concentrated his attention on insects harmful to agriculture. His major work concerned the Coccidae family; he published no less than 12 papers on this subject, and described many new species. He also undertook the systematic grouping of insects according to their hosts: first, the insect pests of tobacco, and later, those of citrus trees.

Citriculture had been one of Bodenheimer's main interests right from the beginning. His declared intention was to investigate thoroughly every insect harmful to citrus trees. With the help of his assistants he collected all available data here, and in the course of his many journeys, in California, Japan, Spain, Malta and Cyprus. The results of his labours were published in a monograph of international fame: "Citrus Entomolgy". An earlier monograph (1930) on a less specific subject, "Die Schaedlingsfauna Palaestina's", includes besides insect pests, birds, mammals and nematodes.

Bodenheimer published a succession of papers on the biology and life cycles of numerous insects, but particularly noteworthy is his research work carried out on the locust. The locust invasion of 1929—30 provided him and his associates with an opoprtunity to study the life history of the insect, its habits, and the influence of the environment. Much was learnt about the influence of humidity and temperature on egg development and on the larvae.

In *ecology,* Bodenheimer's research aimed at finding methods to forecast the appearance of pests, and the number of generations they could produce within a fixed time and space, and under known temperature conditions.

His early work on pest control, including biological control, is naturally out of date, but when viewed in the light of that period, it must be recognized as the work of a pioneer.