

WE regret to announce the death of SIR CHARLES ALEXANDER CAMERON on Sunday, February 27, at Dublin. Sir Charles was born in Dublin in 1830, and devoted most of his lifetime to the study of public health in his birthplace. He was a fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland, of the latter of which he had been president, and he held a number of diplomas from various public health and sanitary institutions. From 1883-89 he was president of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and from 1893-94 he served as president of the Society of Public Analysts. Sir Charles was also a member of numerous foreign medical societies. For more than half a century he had control of the Public Health Department of Dublin Corporation, and had been public analyst for a large area round Dublin since 1862. In 1902 he was the recipient of the Harben gold medal. His publications afford a measure of the scope of his interests in science. The best known of his books is probably "The History of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland," the last edition of which was published in 1916. He was also the author of

books on agricultural chemistry and stock-feeding, as well as of numerous works and papers dealing with public health and hygiene. He received knighthood in 1885, and was created C.B. in 1899.

THE death of MR. JAMES KEITH on February 23 is announced in *Engineering* for March 4. Mr. Keith was the founder and managing director of the firm of James Keith and Blackman, the well-known heating and ventilating engineers, and much of the apparatus manufactured by his firm was of his invention. He was an associate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers; he was also the author of numerous publications and contributions to the technical Press. Mr. Keith gave expert evidence in 1897 at the Board of Trade inquiry into the ventilation of the London Underground Railways, and also in 1903-4 before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the ventilation of the Houses of Parliament.

Notes.

PROF. A. S. EDDINGTON has been elected president of the Royal Astronomical Society in succession to Prof. A. Fowler.

At the meeting of the Royal Society on May 5 the Croonian lecture will be delivered by Dr. Henry Head on "Release of Function in the Nervous System."

THE Principal Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Mr. C. Tate Regan to be keeper of zoology and Dr. G. F. Herbert Smith assistant secretary at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington; also Mr. Robert L. Hobson and Mr. Reginald A. Smith deputy keepers in the department of British and medieval antiquities.

THE Toronto correspondent of the *Times* announces that a report by a Committee of the Dominion Privy Council, approved by the Duke of Devonshire, the Governor-General, expresses to Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson "the thanks of the Government of Canada in recognition and appreciation of your distinguished services rendered to Canada in connection with your explorations in the Arctic regions."

THE Radio Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1, is requiring workers of high academic qualification for the purpose of undertaking research work in wireless telegraphy. The yearly remuneration offered is from 35*l.* to 55*l.* In making application for the positions candidates should give particulars of any papers published by them in scientific journals.

THE following were elected fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh at the ordinary meeting on March 7:—Dr. Nelson Annandale, Mr. W. Arthur, Mr. B. B. Baker, Dr. Archibald Barr, Mr. J. Bartho-

lomew, Mr. A. Bruce, Mr. Andrew Campbell, Dr. Rasik Lal Datta, Dr. John Dougall, Dr. C. V. Drysdale, Mr. G. T. Forrest, Dr. W. Gibson, Dr. J. W. H. Harrison, Mr. J. A. G. Lamb, the Rev. A. E. Laurie, Mr. Neil M'Arthur, Mr. D. B. M'Quistan, Dr. T. M. MacRobert, Dr. J. M'Whan, Mr. J. Mathieson, Sir G. H. Pollard, Prof. E. B. Ross, the Right Hon. J. P. Smith, Prof. N. K. Smith, and Dr. I. S. Stewart.

At a meeting of the Royal Dublin Society on February 22, the president, Lord Rathdonnell, in the chair, the Boyle medal of the society was awarded to Dr. George H. Pethybridge. In recommending Dr. Pethybridge's name as that of a suitable recipient of the Boyle medal, the science committee of the Royal Dublin Society directed special attention to his researches in the elucidation of the life-history of the fungi which cause blight in potatoes, and to his discovery of a process in the development of the sexual organs of *Phytophthora erythroseptica*, Pethy., and of *P. infestans*, Mont., until then unknown.

THE Geological Survey has just issued vol. xiv. of its Special Reports on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain, this being devoted to a description of the fireclays; it thus forms a companion volume to vol. vi., in which the other refractory materials such as ganister, etc., are described, and there is naturally a certain amount of overlapping between these two. The present report deals with the geology of the fireclays, and particularly with the available reserves of this material; it is intended that the chemistry of the subject should be dealt with in a separate volume, upon which Dr. J. W. Mellor is at present engaged. This is the first time that any serious attempt has been made to collect information upon this subject, the economic importance of which is