

surface condensers, indeterminate structures and the design of dams. His criticism of the memoir "An Experimental Study of the Stresses in Masonry Dams", published by Prof. Karl Pearson and Prof. A. F. C. Pollard in 1907, led to a controversy which was carried on partly in *Engineering* and partly in our own columns. But the work for which Martin will chiefly be remembered was his original researches in connexion with the theory of the steam turbine and thermodynamics, subjects to which he returned again and again. His earlier series of articles on the steam turbine led to the publication in 1913 of his treatise "The Design and Construction of Steam Turbines". Afterwards he dealt with the proportioning of turbine blading, the strength of rotating discs, nozzle experiments and the reaction of steam jets, his contributions to these and other matters being of the greatest service to the steam turbine industry.

For many years a valued member of the Steam Nozzles Committee of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association, Martin designed the most successful apparatus used for nozzle research, which has indeed been copied by other workers. With his wide knowledge of engineering theory and practice, he also possessed a thorough acquaintance with modern physics which, combined with his gift for writing, enabled him to

produce the reports of scientific lectures which have long been a notable feature in the columns of *Engineering*. "No one but Martin," says Dr. G. Stoney, "could have given the lucid reports of the lectures of Lord Rutherford, Sir J. J. Thomson and others at the Royal Institution."

Never in robust health and somewhat reserved, Martin took but little part in outside affairs, and we believe the only mark of distinction he received from the engineering profession was his election in 1921 as an honorary member of the Junior Institution of Engineers. The indebtedness of the profession to his studies, however, is a great and lasting one.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., professor of geology and mineralogy in Trinity College, Dublin, on December 7, aged seventy-six years.

Sir Frederic L. Nathan, K.B.E., superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Factory, in 1900-9, and later power alcohol investigation officer under the Fuel Research Board, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, on December 10, aged seventy-two years.

Sir William Whitla, formerly professor of *materia medica* and therapeutics in the Queen's University, Belfast, president of the British Medical Association in 1909-10, on December 11, aged eighty-two years.

News and Views

Aberdeen Meeting of the British Association

THE annual meeting of the British Association will be held next year in Aberdeen on September 5-12 under the presidency of Sir William Hardy, Director of Food Investigation in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The following sectional presidents have been appointed: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Sciences), Prof. H. M. Macdonald; B (Chemistry), Prof. T. M. Lowry; C (Geology), Prof. W. T. Gordon; D (Zoology), Dr. E. S. Russell; E (Geography), Prof. A. G. Ogilvie; F (Economic Science and Statistics), Prof. H. M. Hallsworth; G (Engineering), Prof. F. G. Baily; H (Anthropology), Capt. T. A. Joyce; I (Physiology), Prof. H. E. Roaf; J (Psychology), Dr. Shepherd Dawson; K (Botany), Prof. A. W. Borthwick; L (Educational Science), Mr. H. T. Tizard; M (Agriculture), Prof. J. A. S. Watson. The president of the Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies will be Sir Henry Lyons.

The 24-Hour System of Time Reckoning

FIFTY years ago, the United States adopted zone time, the time in each zone differing by an integral number of hours from Greenwich time. Zone time has been very generally adopted throughout the world, and has resulted, in the long run, in a great deal of convenience to the world, though the choice of the Greenwich meridian rather than that of Washington may then have seemed unnecessary to

some Americans. Reform in British methods of public time-keeping, namely, the adoption of a 24-hour clock, and the abolition of the distinction between a.m. and p.m. in railway time-tables and in the Post Office, is again under consideration (see *NATURE*, Dec. 2, p. 835). On December 7 the House of Lords adopted a resolution moved by Lord Newton recommending that the Post Office should adopt the 24-hour day, and that the railways should be invited to use it in their time-tables. The change was recommended so long ago as 1919 by a Home Office Committee. The Government reply was that there is no evidence of a general demand on the part of the public for the 24-hour day. The 24-hour day is, of course, used by astronomers, and also by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. While the present arrangement causes little inconvenience in private life, most people will probably agree with the Astronomer Royal, who is supporting the project, that the adoption of the 24-hour day would be a small but easily made step in the direction of greater ultimate public convenience.

Cinchona and Civilisation

THE Pharmaceutical Society awards bi-annually the Harrison Memorial medal, which perpetuates the memory of Colonel E. F. Harrison, a member of the Society who was Director of Chemical Warfare during the later stages of the War and died from the effects of gas poisoning contracted while testing respirators.