

News and Views

Sir Richard Glazebrook, K.C.B., F.R.S.,

SIR RICHARD GLAZEBROOK reaches his eightieth birthday on September 18, and there must be few men in this or any other generation whose names are associated with such a long career devoted unremittingly to the services of science and the State. "Ease, from this noble miser of his time, no moment seeks" and first as fellow, tutor and bursar of Trinity College, Cambridge, then as principal of University College, Liverpool, and afterwards as first director of the National Physical Laboratory, Sir Richard has never wearied in well doing, and has ever brought a single-minded resolution to bear in turn on each of the many problems which came to hand. Of the breadth and diversity of his activities there is no room to speak here—the Universities Commission, the Museums Commission, the 1851 Commission, the Aeronautical Research Committee, the "Dictionary of Applied Physics", the Gas Referees, the presidencies of many institutions and societies—he has always revelled in work and thrived on it. As chairman of countless committees, he is not likely to be surpassed for his ability to crystallise discussion into decision and decision into action. But the biggest debt of all which the Nation owes him, and for which he will always be remembered, is for the skill, resource, pertinacity and judgment he brought to bear in creating and moulding the laboratories at Teddington into a great national institution with a standing unquestioned, both at home and abroad. It is a privilege to be able to extend our congratulations to Sir Richard on a great occasion, and to wish him many more years of untiring service.

Prof. W. W. Watts, F.R.S.: President-Elect of the British Association

No man of his generation has exercised greater or more knowledgeable influence on geologists and the progress of British geology than Prof. William Whitehead Watts, president-elect of the British Association for 1935. Born at Broseley in Shropshire in 1860, he was educated first at local schools and then at Denstone College, Staffordshire, and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. His teaching career was started when he undertook university extension lecturing and for a time took charge of the Department of Geology at Leeds. It was continued when, after some years of service as petrologist on H.M. Geological Survey, he became deputy professor of geology at Oxford. It was as professor of geography and assistant professor with Charles Lapworth at Birmingham that he made his mark, and by that time he had produced his "Geology for Beginners", a small book which for forty years has provided the first introduction of the science to young geologists in all the English-speaking world. In 1906, Watts succeeded Judd as professor of geology at the Royal College of Science and the Royal School of Mines, London, where he has built up a school, the students from which have filled academic professorships,

directorships of geological surveys and many and diverse posts of influence in industry in many lands. Since the Imperial College was instituted in 1908, the Department of Geology has been extended by Watts's organisation of the Sub-Departments of Oil Technology and Mining.

PROF. WATTS'S talent for administration has led him to respond to insistent demands for his services outside the Imperial College, and he has held office as dean of the Faculty of Science and member of the Senate of the University of London, secretary and president of the Geological Society of London, president of the London Geologists' Association, president of the Mineralogical Society and secretary of the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies and Technological Institutions. Notwithstanding the time taken up by teaching and administration, Prof. Watts's own researches—more especially those concerned with Charnwood Forest and in Shropshire—have proved an inspiration to all British workers concerned with Lower Palaeozoic rocks. His interest in the applications of science led him to choose for his presidential address to the Geological Society in 1911 the problem of the hidden coal resources of Great Britain, a conspectus remarkable for its breadth of view. Prof. Watts's connexion with the British Association dates back to 1883, and since that time he has been associated as secretary and chairman with the still active Committee on Geological Photographs, the oldest of the Association's research committees extant and the only one which has been self-supporting since its inception. He has been in turn secretary, recorder and, at Southport and again at Toronto, president of Section C (Geology). Among the honours which have been conferred upon him are the Wollaston and Murchison Medals of the Geological Society, honorary doctorates of the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh and the honorary fellowship of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

British Association at Aberdeen

IMMEDIATELY before the delivery of his presidential address at the inaugural meeting of the British Association, Sir James Jeans announced that the following message had been sent to H.M. the King: "Your Majesty,—We, the Members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science assembled in the City of Aberdeen in annual session, desire humbly to recall to Your Majesty that it was in this City that His Royal Highness The Prince Consort assumed the Presidency of the Association in the year 1859. From the Presidential Chair, he conveyed to the assembled members of the Association a gracious message from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and delivered an Address which disclosed his own profound interest in the advancement of Science. The many marks of Royal favour which have been extended to our Association on subsequent occasions have provided further signal encouragement to us in