

News and Views

British Association: Sectional Presidents

THE annual meeting of the British Association will be held in Cambridge on August 17-24, 1938, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh. The following sectional presidents have been appointed: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Sciences), Dr. C. G. Darwin; B (Chemistry), Prof. C. S. Gibson; C (Geology), Prof. H. H. Swinnerton; D (Zoology), Dr. S. W. Kemp; E (Geography), Prof. T. Griffith Taylor; F (Economics), Mr. R. F. Harrod; G (Engineering), Prof. R. V. Southwell; H (Anthropology), Prof. V. Gordon Childe; J (Psychology), Dr. R. H. Thouless; K (Botany), Prof. W. Stiles; L (Education), Mr. John Sargent; M (Agriculture), Prof. R. G. Stapledon.

Mr. R. A. Smith

MR. REGINALD ALLENDER SMITH, who retires from the office of keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) on January 4, has held that appointment since 1928. Mr. Smith had had a long period of previous service in the Department as assistant keeper, entering it when, under the late Mr. (afterwards Sir) Charles Hercules Read, it still included the exhibits in ethnography. Although the whole field of British prehistoric archæology lies within the range of Mr. Smith's expert knowledge, it is more particularly on the palæolithic period and the Iron Age that he is regarded as of the highest authority, and that on certain classes of disputed questions his judgment has been in a sense a court of final appeal. Of the official guides and other publications of the British Museum, of which Mr. Smith is sole or part author, the catalogue of the Sturge collection of stone implements is perhaps of the most enduring value to the student. Mr. Smith is not only the author of a large number of the archæological chapters in the various volumes of the "Victorian History of the Counties of England", but he has also made numerous valuable and authoritative contributions to the literature of archæology in the pages of learned and scientific publications dealing with the subject, more especially those published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, of which society he has acted as secretary and for some years past has been the director.

Mr. T. D. Kendrick

MR. THOMAS DOWNING KENDRICK, who will succeed Mr. R. A. Smith as keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities of the British Museum, has been an assistant keeper in that department for some years. Since the publication of his first book "The Axe Age", Mr. Kendrick has been recognized as an archæologist whose views are

original, but at the same time carefully observant of the limitations of the evidence. Of recent years Mr. Kendrick has made a special study of the form and technique of the Celtic or British decorative art of the Iron Age and the British and Scandinavian art forms of the early historic period, on which he has contributed a number of papers to archæological publications. Among his more important published works are "The Archæology of the Channel Islands", of which one volume only has as yet appeared, "The Druids", "A History of the Vikings" and "Archæology of England and Wales, 1914-1931", the last-named in collaboration with Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes. He is also the editor of that valuable and scholarly series, "The County Archæologies".

Lord Nuffield's New Gift to Oxford

THE endowment of demonstratorships and assistantships in the Oxford Medical School, to be held by graduates from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, will now be possible thanks to Lord Nuffield's latest gift to the School of £168,000. It is intended with this money to establish three demonstratorships in the pre-clinical departments of anatomy, biochemistry, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology, and three assistantships in the departments of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetics, orthopaedic surgery, and therapeutics. These posts will be held for a fixed period by graduates eligible for, or already holding, research posts in the universities of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa which grant medical degrees. The holders will be selected in rotation by these universities and appointed to the particular department in Oxford which is theirs. They will thus enjoy all the advantages of membership for a time of the Oxford Medical School. Oxford will benefit by the presence of these additional highly qualified workers; and the Dominions concerned will benefit by their experience on their return.

The Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta

THE Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, is celebrating the completion of its 150th year on January 6, during the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress, and a number of distinguished botanists from Great Britain expect to attend. The Garden was started at the suggestion of Lieut.-Colonel Robert Kyd, and continued as the Honourable East India Company's Botanic Garden until the Company relinquished its control of the government of India in 1857, when it became the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta. Colonel Kyd was appointed superintendent of the Garden and continued in that position until his death in 1793. Then it was decided