challenged the view taken by astronomers that the moon was dead and that no changes took place on its surface in a paper contributed to the Royal Astronomical Society on "Seasonal Changes occurring in certain Lunar Craters". These he attributed to patches of snow which disappeared gradually and reformed. These changes have not been confirmed, and must be attributed to differences of definition.

Pickering, Percival Lowell and George Forbes all made calculations to discover an extra-Neptunian planet. Pickering used the slight deviations of the orbit of Uranus, Lowell and Forbes the slight deviation of the orbit of Neptune (and in the case of Forbes the existence of a so-called family of Neptunian comets), as data for the existence of this body. The position of the planet was found by both Pickering and Lowell from these wholly insufficient data, and strangely enough a planet was found by Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory on January 21, 1930. Judging from its brightness, the mass of the planet is too small to exercise any appreciable perturbation on Uranus or Neptune.

Prof. Pickering married Anne Atwood, daughter of Mr. Isaac Butts of Boston. They visited England a number of times and made many friends. Prof. Pickering spoke several times at the Royal Astronomical Society, of which he was elected an associate in 1910. He has also addressed the British Astronomical Association, as he was greatly in sympathy with amateur observers. F. W. D.

WE regret to announce the death of Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S., a pioneer in the treatment of mental disease, which occurred on January 31, aged ninety-seven years.

News and Views

Mr. W. M. H. Greaves

THE King has approved, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Scotland, the appointment of Mr. W. M. H. Greaves, chief assistant of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, to be astronomer royal for Scotland and professor of astronomy in the University of Edinburgh, in succession to Prof. R. A. Sampson, who retired recently. Mr. Greaves entered St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1917. He obtained a first class with distinction in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos and was awarded the Tyson Medal for astronomy. He obtained a Smith's Prize in 1921 for an essay on the movement of asteroids of the Trojan group, was awarded an Isaac Newton Studentship and in 1922 was elected a fellow of his College. Mr. Greaves was appointed chief assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in 1924. The most important work undertaken by Mr. Greaves at Greenwich has been the development of methods for the determination of the colour temperatures of stars. The observations are divided into two parts: the determination of the relative gradients of the spectral energy curves and the fixing of the zero point of the temperature scale. The determination of the zero point is a long and intricate investigation, requiring reference to a terrestrial source; it has been undertaken twice with concordant results. The mean colour temperature for stars of spectral type *A*0 was found to be 18,000° K.; this value is appreciably higher than had previously been accepted but has since been confirmed by other investigators. Mr. Greaves has also been in charge of the magnetic work at Greenwich and has made some valuable investigations of the relationships between sunspots and magnetic storms. Mr. Greaves was secretary to Section A (Mathematics and Physical Science) of the British Association from 1924 until 1931, and has been secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society since 1932.

Accident to Dr. W. W. Vaughan

MOST of the members of the British Association delegation to the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association have now returned, and one of them has kindly told us the circumstances of Dr. W. W. Vaughan's lamentable accident at Agra. It appears that Dr. Vaughan, with Mrs. Vaughan and other members of the delegation, had gone to the Taj Mahal before moonrise on the night of the party's arrival at Agra. In the darkness, he missed his footing on the upper of two terraces between which there is a fall of several feet, without any parapet. He fell on to the lower terrace, and his leg was broken above the knee. Help was obtained from other members of the delegation, and also, very fortunately, from an Indian friend of one of them, who, as a resident in Agra, knew what to do. But there was a weary wait for the sufferer before an ambulance could be got, during which he retained both consciousness and, by all accounts, the bravest bearing. The Thomason Hospital at Agra received him with every attention. It is now known that the leg, which had not been healing satisfactorily, was amputated on Monday, January 24; a private message on the following Thursday spoke of the patient's condition as "improving", and a press bulletin on January 31 appeared equally favourable.

International Economic Collaboration

THE able report by M. Van Zeeland on his mission of inquiry to various countries, directed to "the possibility of obtaining a general reduction of quotas and of other obstacles to international trade", was published in the press on January 28. His proposals in the main are very much in line with views that have been repeatedly expressed in NATURE, and they should receive serious consideration by all Governments. His immediate object is to bring together