

remarkable teacher, he was the author of numerous experimental and clinical publications, of which the most important were on the occurrence of tetany after operations for goitre (1890), diseases of the thyroid (1903), and the modern treatment of fractures (1905). He was also co-editor of the *Archiv für klinische Chirurgie*, which dedicated to him its 140th volume on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his professorship in 1926, and of the *Mitteilungen aus der Grenzgebiete der Medizin und Chirurgie*. During the War of 1914-18, in which he was appointed consultant to the Austro-Hungarian Navy, his services were much in request especially as regards abdominal wounds and amputations.

Eiselsberg had many friends in Great Britain, where he was elected Hon. F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1905, Hon. F.R.C.S. England in 1913, where he delivered the Hunterian Lecture in 1932, and honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1928. His autobiography, under the title of "Lebensweg eines Chirurgen", appeared a few months before his death.

J. D. ROLLESTON.

#### Prof. R. I. Meyer

PROF. RICHARD I. MEYER, whose death, at the age of seventy-four years, occurred on June 18, was one of the best known inorganic chemists in Germany. Born in Berlin on August 24, 1865, he built up a reputation early in life by his researches on rare earths, thallium and scandium; his discovery of scandium in tungsten and tin slags enabled him to produce this element—then considered one of the rarest—in sufficient quantity for its thorough chemical and physical investigation. From 1897 onwards, for twenty-five years, Meyer was associated with Prof. Arthur Rosenheim in Berlin in the conduct of a private scientific chemical laboratory in which, under the guidance of these two men, university students carried out valuable research work in inorganic chemistry—a branch of chemistry frequently neglected in the official university laboratories in Germany, which were almost without exception directed by organic chemists.

On his retirement from this laboratory in 1922, Prof. Meyer was entrusted by the German Chemical Society with the organization of the eighth edition of "Gmelin's Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry" which, in this new form, is as outstanding in its field as is the famous "Beilstein" handbook in organic chemistry. The achievement of this high standard is due to the comprehensive editorial programme laid down by Meyer, to his discriminating choice of co-workers, and to his careful supervision of every detail in the publication of the first twenty or so volumes. Even after withdrawing from the editorship, he helped by writing the manuscript of the introductory volume on rare earths; his name, however, was omitted from the title page when the volume appeared in print—a fate which quite frequently befell 'non-Aryan' authors in Germany after 1933.

Not only in his editorial activities were Prof. Meyer's organizing abilities of high value, but also in his work as one of the members of the International

Committee on Atomic Weights—for the reports of which he was largely responsible—and as a member of the International Committee on Inorganic Nomenclature. Everybody who came in touch with him was delighted to find not only a chemist of wide erudition and outlook but also a highly cultivated man of great personal charm who was as interested in questions of art, especially music, as in science. It was a matter of intense pleasure and pride to him to see this part of his inheritance come to full development in his highly gifted only son, who became a successful orchestral conductor.

No obituary article on the work of this excellent chemist appeared in any German journal; no official representative of the German Chemical Society attended the funeral of the man who had so devotedly worked for many years in the society's publishing offices. Nevertheless, his name will be gratefully remembered inside and outside Germany as the first editor-in-chief of the now "Gmelin" by present and future generations of chemists who will consult this monumental work.

#### Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing

SCIENCE, not only in the Soviet Union, but also the world over, has suffered a great loss in the death on October 24 of Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing, member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and director of the Petrographical Institute in Moscow.

Franz Youlievich Loewinson-Lessing was born in St. Petersburg on March 9 (February 25, Old Style), 1861. After graduating in 1883 at the University of St. Petersburg, he worked for some years as an assistant at that University. In 1892 he was appointed professor of geology, petrology and mineralogy at the University of Dorpat (Youriev) and in 1902 was the first holder of the chair of geology, petrology and mineralogy in the newly founded St. Petersburg Polytechnic Institute. In 1925 he was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and director of the Geological Museum. He was the founder and first director of the Petrographical Institute. He was an honorary or foreign member of a number of scientific societies at home and abroad, including the Geological Society of London.

Prof. Loewinson-Lessing was the leading petrologist in Russia and was well known internationally. The bulk of his work was published in Russian, but he also contributed quite a number of papers to English, American, French and German periodicals. Although his main interest was in the petrology of igneous rocks, he published a number of papers dealing with mineralogy, geology and ore-deposits. His books include "Tables for the Determination of Rock-forming Minerals" (English translation, 1893), "Petrographical Tables" (1905, 1911), "Text-book of Crystallography" (1911, 1923), "Introduction to Geology" (1923), "Progress of Petrology in Russia" (1923), "Petrology" (1925), "History of Petrology" (1936, English translation forthcoming). Altogether he was responsible for more than two hundred papers and books.



Prof. Loewinson-Lessing's field work covered almost the whole of the territory of European and Asiatic Russia. He began his work in Karelia and the Caucasus and then extended his activity to the Crimea, the Ural Mountains and Siberia. His petrographical descriptions of the rocks of these regions were used as models by other petrologists. Field description, petrography and petrochemistry of rocks are well blended in all his works. In the domain of theoretical petrology, he is well known for his chemical classification of igneous rocks and his syntectic-liquational hypothesis of magmatic differentiation. In spite of the stress laid by him on liquation as a factor of differentiation, his views on this subject were rather eclectic.

As a teacher, Prof. Loewinson-Lessing was excellent. It is a matter for wonder that he could, in addition to all his research activities and his official duties, contrive to hold numerous classes for students. His lectures were always inspiring and he never lost his freshness of outlook or his mastery of presentation.

During a half-century of teaching he trained hundreds of geologists and petrologists. He will be affectionately remembered for his kindness and his help and inspiration by all his colleagues and pupils, among whom the present writer is proud to inscribe himself.

S. I. TOMKEIEFF.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. Viggo Christiansen, emeritus professor of neurology in the University of Copenhagen, president of the International Congress of Neurology held last August, on November 3, aged seventy-one years.

Dr. J. F. Lewis, past president of the Royal Photographic Society, on November 28, aged seventy-two years.

Sir Ernest Scott, emeritus professor of history in the University of Melbourne, and president in 1939 of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, aged seventy-one years.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Indian Archaeology and Indian Problems

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY'S Birdwood Memorial Lecture to the Royal Society of Arts, on December 1, was in effect an addendum to his official report to the Government on the organization of archaeological studies in India; and it should receive no less careful consideration than the major document when in due course it appears in print. For in the freer atmosphere of the lecture hall, Sir Leonard evidently felt at liberty to allow his trained faculty of scientific imagination to play on the archaeological material which had come before him, and to submit the result to his audience in a selection of the problems and possibilities which the study of Indian archaeology presents to his mind as calling urgently for investigation—problems no less fascinating in the vistas of the advancement of knowledge they open up than they are evocative of dismay when contemplation turns to the vastness of the field in time and space to be covered. Nor was any short cut offered which might lead by an easy way to the solution of these problems. While Sir Leonard paid due tribute to the work of Lord Curzon in setting up the Archaeological Survey of India, and the work which has since been carried out in the triple function of conservation, excavation and publication, he went on to point out with the greatest emphasis that no further advance on sound lines is possible until the essential preliminary groundwork has been completed and a backbone has been built up in a sequence scheme of Indian cultural history. This is the essential task to which effort must first be directed.

It was suggested in NATURE of October 28, p. 721, that the inauguration of a new era in India's history might fittingly be marked by the institution on a

sound and lasting basis of a scheme of research and study on broad lines of the racial and cultural history of India. In such a scheme archaeological investigation would inevitably take a foremost place. As Sir Leonard said, "The whole country from north to south is strewn with standing monuments of the greatest interest and the greatest beauty and the utmost historical value." He then pointed out that in his analysis of the cultural elements of the ancient monuments of India, certain factors had emerged, from which he proceeded to draw conclusions significant for the India of to-day. In the architecture of the monuments, he showed, the Mogul strain, working in stone, and the Dravidian, a style derivative from the technique of the worker in wood or even the jeweller, constituted a clash in styles reflecting a political and moral breach between two elements still represented in the population of to-day. Nevertheless, the clash had been resolved in the triumphs of the Taj Mahal, the Delhi fort, and more especially in Fatehpur Sikri, which showed conclusively that the genius of the two peoples "can combine fruitfully and fertilely". Novel views of the relation of north and south, thrown out as suggestions presented on the results of Sir Leonard's inspection of specified sites, offer a field of research which, when once the essential groundwork has been completed, might offer to the Indian peoples a source of unity in pride in their joint cultural achievement in the past.

### School of Oriental and African Studies

NOTWITHSTANDING the transfer of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London to Christ's College, Cambridge, the building of the School's new premises in the University of London area is being pushed forward, and should be