

For more than half a century, Dr. Neale lived as a general practitioner in the St. John's Wood district, endearing himself to an increasing circle of friends by his skill, devotion to duty and trust-begetting kindness.

HUGH ROBERT MILL.

We regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. H. H. Barnum, head of the Department of Mathematics in Robert College, Istanbul, aged sixty-one years.

Dr. W. A. Potts, a pioneer in the psychology of crime, on July 23, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. E. R. A. Seligman, McVickar professor of political economy and finance in Columbia University during 1904-31 and editor of the "Encyclopædia of Social Sciences", aged seventy-eight years.

Mr. J. M. Wood, formerly engineer of the New River Company and of the northern district of the Metropolitan Water Board, on July 21, aged eighty years.

Prof. Archibald Young, regius professor of surgery in the University of Glasgow, on July 23, aged sixty-five years.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Dr. Wilson Smith

DR. WILSON SMITH, who has just been appointed to the chair of bacteriology in the University of Sheffield, graduated in medicine at the University of Manchester in 1923, after War service in France and Belgium with a field ambulance during 1916-19. He obtained the diploma in bacteriology at Manchester in 1927 and was granted the M.D. degree in 1929. For the last ten years he has been a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council and during this period he has made many valuable contributions to knowledge on bacteriological problems—such as the standardization and assay of pneumococcus antisera—and also on various virus diseases. Perhaps the most important of these latter contributions are the facts regarding the virus of epidemic influenza. As a member of a team, he was one of the discoverers of this virus and he helped to lay down criteria for its recognition; he did much of the pioneer work which has led to a renewed and intensive investigation of influenza throughout the world. Since 1934 he has been one of the editors of the *British Journal of Experimental Pathology*.

### Mr. Hugh Main

THE council of the British Empire Naturalists' Association has elected Mr. Hugh Main as new national president in succession to Mr. Douglas English, who recently retired owing to ill-health. The presidency of the Association is not an annual affair and the choice of Mr. Hugh Main will meet with wide acclamation, for he is well known for his interest in nature photography and his insect studies. He spends much time in his private photographic studio at Woodford Wells in Essex, or in collecting insect specimens. He has long been a vice-president of the Association, and when the new Epping Forest Branch of the Association was formed, Mr. Main was elected its first president. He has made conspicuous contributions to nature photography and he has also been an active man in the field as well as on the lecture platform. He has also made some

noteworthy experiments with his insectarium. Mr. Main has long been a keen and enthusiastic worker for the Association and has done much in various ways to promote its welfare. He is the Association's referee for beetles. The British Empire Naturalists Association now has twenty-four local branches each with separate meetings and officers, and thirty-five other natural history societies are affiliated to it.

### Public Health and the Supply of Medicaments

THE address of Mr. J. Rutherford Hill, as chairman of the Pharmaceutical Conference, which met at Birmingham on July 17-21, was entitled "Public Health in relation to the Recognition, Definition, Standardisation and Controlled Supply of Medicaments", and he makes recommendations under all these heads. Lists of recognized drugs are supplied by the national pharmacopœias of many countries; it is hoped that these will eventually be replaced by an international pharmacopœia, but this would not solve the whole problem. Medicine is advancing rapidly and pharmacopœias soon get out of date. Some authority in Great Britain should publish a list, like the American list of New and Non-Official Remedies, which would be kept constantly up to date. The British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have recently been forced by considerations of cost to abandon the proposal to publish such a list jointly. The Government should undertake this important public service. Proper regulations for the definition of medicines would make it impossible for the manufacturers to confuse the public, and fill up the shelves in pharmacies, by selling the same simple chemical substance under a dozen synonyms. Mr. Hill also recommends that the present arrangements for the standardization of medicines should be extended, and that their retail sale should be confined to pharmacists. This would not mean a monopoly for one class of the community, but only that those firms which sell medicines should be compelled to employ salesmen who have been properly trained.