NEWS AND VIEWS

Awards of the Geological Society

THE following are the grounds for the awards of the Geological Society: Wollaston Medal to Dr. A. L. Day, for his researches in vulcanology and in the field of experimental petrology; Murchison Medal to Dr. Murray Macgregor, assistant director (Scotland) of the Geological Survey, for his work in Scottish geology and particularly the Carboniferous rocks; Lyell Medal to Mr. E. S. Pinfold, for his discoveries concerning the stratigraphy and structure of the oil-bearing regions of Burma and the North West Province of India; Bigsby Medal to Dr. C. J. Stubblefield, of the Geological Survey, for his work on the trilobites and on the stratigraphy and palæontology of the palæozoic rocks; Wollaston Fund to Dr. K. P. Oakley, of the British Museum (Natural History), for his work in palæontology and Pleistocene geology; Murchison Fund to Dr. J. Weir, of the University of Glasgow, for his researches in palæontology; a moiety of the Lyell Fund to Mr. W. Eltringham, of Crawcrook, for his work as a collector of fossil plants and arthropods from the Coal Measures; another moiety of the Lyell Fund to Dr. F. S. Wallis, deputy-director of the Bristol Museum, for his services to geology in Bristol.

Dr. Arthur L. Day

THE announcement by the Geological Society that the Wollaston Medal—its highest honour—has been awarded to Dr. Arthur L. Day, will give widespread pleasure. Dr. Day's name will always be associated with the Geophysical Laboratory of Washington, of which he was the distinguished director from its foundation in 1907 until his retirement thirty years later. In 1900, very early in his career, Dr. Day was called upon by the Geological Survey of the United States to equip a laboratory in which the exact methods of physical chemistry could be applied to the study of rock-forming minerals; and the following year, in collaboration with Dr. E. T. Allen, he began his famous investigation of the isomorphism and thermal properties of the felspars. This research may be said to have introduced a new era in mineralogy and petrology. It proved so successful that the Carnegie Institution of Washington decided to erect a special laboratory for the study and measurement with the utmost possible precision of the factors involved in the formation of rocks. Dr. Day, already commended for his resourcefulness, experimental skill and tireless energy, became its director.

The immense progress that has since been achieved by Dr. Day and his enthusiastic band of colleagues—attested by more than a thousand publications—proves the wisdom of that happy choice. The researches have included the investigation of a wide variety of mineral systems of one to five components; of the effects of volatile constituents; of the effects of temperature and pressure on minerals and rocks; of crystal structure; of the production of schistosity; of the gases and gas reactions of active volcanoes; of the nature and origin of hot springs and geysers; of many natural assemblages of rocks and their geochemistry; of the radioactivity of rocks; and of many economic problems such as those connected with the manufacture of cement and optical glass. In some of these Dr. Day has himself taken the leading part, especially in the adventurous study of volcanic phenomena. Latterly he became attracted to the hot-spring problem, and to the results of his work in this difficult field he devoted his address to the Geological Society of America, of which he was elected president in 1938. Dr. Day has always been outstanding for his remarkable flair for devising successful experimental methods and apparatus. His own deep passion for 'the rigour of the game' has established a tradition of high scientific accuracy which his colleagues have worthily upheld. Workers from many other countries have been trained in the famous Laboratory under his stimulating guidance and have returned to their home-lands to spread that tradition far and wide. Dr. Day's innumerable friends and admirers will feel that there could be no more appropriate recipient of the Wollaston Medal, awarded, as it is, to honour those who have made—in the words of the founder—"researches concerning the mineral structure of the earth".

Institution of Mining and Metallurgy: New President

MR. E. H. Clifford has been elected president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy for the year 1941–42, and will take office in May. Mr. Clifford, who was educated at St. Paul's School and received his technical training at the Royal School of Mines, London, and the Freiberg Bergakademie, began his mining career on the Witwatersrand in 1897, and worked continuously in South Africa until the War of 1914–18. He has managed various mines and in 1914 was appointed consulting engineer in Johannesburg to the Central Mining-Rand Mines Group. During the War, Mr. Clifford joined the Mineral Resources Department of the Ministry of Munitions, of which he became chief technical adviser, and at the end of hostilities resumed his former appointment with the Central Mining Group in South Africa, from which he resigned in 1922. In 1926 Mr. Clifford was appointed consulting mining engineer to the British South Africa Company, a position which he still holds. He was recently co-opted as a member of the Departmental Committee lately set up by the Ministry of Supply to inquire into the possible increased production of non-ferrous ores in the United Kingdom. He is also a member of the governing body of the Imperial College, to which he was appointed by the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851.