

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**Lord Moyne: New Colonial Secretary**

THE announcement of Lord Moyne's appointment as H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to the late Lord Lloyd will be welcome to all who have at heart the future of the populations of Britain's colonial dependencies. His experience both in and out of office when as the Hon. Walter Edward Guinness he sat in the House of Commons, and his first-hand acquaintance with colonial problems, will secure that even the nation's supreme war effort will not be allowed completely to obscure the claims of the populations, and more especially the backward populations, of Britain's colonial dependencies, nor the measures which have already been initiated for raising the standards of living and health to fall entirely into abeyance, however difficult that task may be. It will be remembered that not only was Lord Moyne head of the financial mission which visited Kenya in 1932, but he was also chairman of the Royal Commission which investigated conditions in the West Indies in 1938. It was on the publication of the report of this Commission and largely in consequence of its findings that the Government initiated its present policy of colonial development through liberal grants from the Imperial Exchequer over a period of years. Lord Moyne's first-hand acquaintance with the problems of backward peoples is not, however, limited to his official relations with them. He has travelled extensively in remoter parts of the world, and the ethnographical objects collected by him, more especially in New Guinea, have added valuable material to the national collections in the Ethnographical Galleries of the British Museum.

**Geological Survey of Eire: New Director**

MR. D. W. BISHOPP has been appointed director of the Geological Survey of Eire. He received his training in the Geology Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and graduated A.R.S.M. in mining geology in 1923. Developing observations made during his field training in Norway, he published his first paper, one dealing with the Sulitelma pyrite deposits, in the *Transactions of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy*, and in 1924 was awarded the Institute's Student's Prize. He has had wide experience as a mining geologist, having served with the Mazapil Copper Co., Mexico, the African Manganese Co., Gold Coast, etc. In 1928, he was appointed geological curator in the Rhodesian Museum at Bulawayo, and in 1936 he proceeded to British Guiana as Government economic geologist. His publications have dealt with the mineral deposits of Norway, Mexico and especially British Guiana. The appointment of Mr. Bishopp foreshadows a thorough investigation of the mineral possibilities of Eire.

**Cyrene: Birthplace of Eratosthenes, 276-196 B.C.**

THE advance of the Imperial armies to Cyrene recalls the time when that city was a home of learning and the capital of Pentapolis, a tract of country containing the five cities Cyrene, Arsinoe, Berenice, Ptolemais (or Barce) and Appolonia. Cyrene was the birthplace of several learned men, among whom was Eratosthenes, the geometer and mathematician. A personal friend of Archimedes, Eratosthenes was educated at Alexandria and Athens, and for the greater part of his life was in charge of the University library at Alexandria. He was, says Ball, the Admirable Crichton of his age. He constructed instruments which were used for centuries at the University of Alexandria, suggested the calendar in which every fourth year contains 366 days, determined the obliquity of the ecliptic, measured the length of a degree on the earth's surface and attempted to determine the circumference of the earth. In old age he lost his sight, and starved himself to death at the age of eighty-two.

**Early Exploration of Kent's Cavern**

THE REVEREND JOHN MACENERY, foremost of the early explorers of Kent's Cavern, was born at Limerick in 1797 and was chaplain to the Cary family at Tor Abbey, Torquay, where he died on February 18, 1841. His stone monument is in the cemetery of the Parish Church of Torre, and it states "he inspired respect as a scholar by the vigor of his understanding, his polished taste and varied learning". He made his first visit to Kent's Cavern in the summer of 1825 by chancing to hear a friend express his intention of joining an exploring party there which eventually numbered about a dozen; he made the last of the train, the others spread themselves about but added nothing to what was already known of the cavern, and he betook himself alone to a spot which seemed to have been disturbed. He tumbled it over and found the first fossil teeth he had ever seen; he pursued his search in silence and kept his good fortune to himself, as he "was anxious to send them in the state they were found to Oxford", probably to Prof. Buckland who later in the year visited Kent's Cavern with MacENERY. On that occasion the latter found the tooth of a rhinoceros and a flint blade which he believed was the first ever found in the Cavern.

MacENERY evidently intended to publish his work as he issued a paper as follows: "Shortly will be published, in one volume Quarto, Cavern Researches; or Discoveries of Organic Remains, etc., etc.", but it is likely that he was dissuaded from pursuing the matter as he might come up against ecclesiastical authority. His most interesting finds were the teeth of *Machairodus* (sabre-tooth) of which he found about eight specimens. These were the first ever