

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## The British Council Science Committee

THE British Council was formed in 1934. Under its charter, its object is defined as the promotion of a wider knowledge of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the English language abroad, and the development of closer cultural relations between the United Kingdom and other countries. The Council has already established many institutes abroad, and has active departments concerned with fine arts, music, drama, education, films, foreign visitors and students, books and other subjects. It has now formed a Science Committee under the chairmanship of Sir William Bragg. The other members of the Committee are Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, Prof. J. D. Cockcroft, Sir Robert Robinson, Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, Sir Edward Mellanby, Surgeon Rear-Admiral Gordon Gordon-Taylor, Sir William Larke, Sir Edward Appleton, Dr. A. P. M. Fleming, Mr. C. D. Le Maistre and Prof. R. V. Southwell.

Mr. J. G. Crowther has been appointed secretary of this Committee. Mr. Crowther is well known as the scientific correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, and has for many years been associated with the publication of scientific books. He is the author of fourteen general books on science, the most recent being "The Social Relations of Science". His book on "British Scientists of the Nineteenth Century" is also well known. Mr. Crowther has visited and written about many scientific institutions in Europe and America, and in 1937 he was invited by President Conant to deliver a course of lectures at Harvard University on the history of American science.

## Bedford College, London: Chair of Zoology

PROF. H. MUNRO FOX, who succeeds the late Prof. C. L. Boulenger as head of the zoological faculty at Bedford College, London, has had a varied career. He was educated at Brighton College and Caius College, Cambridge, proceeding to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, as lecturer in 1913. In 1914, he enlisted in the London Mounted Brigade, in which he served until 1919, for the most part in Egypt and Palestine. In 1919 he became lecturer in biology at the School of Medicine, Cairo, leaving in 1923 to become demonstrator in zoology at Cambridge. He was already a fellow of his College and in the following year he was elected to the Balfour studentship. He then proceeded to the Suez Canal, where he investigated the fauna and conditions in relation to migrations between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, a survey which it is hoped may be repeated in 1950. The lunar periodicity in the breeding of marine animals was his discovery. In 1926 he started the *Biological Reviews* of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, of which he is still editor.

Prof. Fox's chief interest throughout his career has lain in the comparative physiology of respiration, the pigments concerned, the effects of environmental

conditions, the circulatory system and respiration, especially in the marine worms. Later he investigated the properties of chlorocruin, which has a low oxygen affinity, and its physiological relationships to the queer animals in which it is found. In particular, he was concerned with the serpulids and sabellids, in which he discovered an in-and-out circulation comparable to that which Galen supposed to exist in the human body.

## Royal Anthropological Institute Awards

THE Rivers Memorial Medal for 1941 has been awarded to Dr. Diamond Jenness, ethnologist in the National Museum of Canada, for his work among the Eskimos of Arctic America. Dr. Jenness is a graduate of the Universities of New Zealand (1908) and Oxford (1911), and in 1935 was made an honorary Litt.D. of the University of New Zealand. Before being appointed in 1913 to his present post in the National Museum of Canada, he carried out field work in Papua; his principal work, however, has been among the Eskimos and Indians of North America. He took part in the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18, when he visited the Copper Eskimos; since then he has studied the Sarcee Indians of Alberta, the Carrier, Sekani and Coast Salish tribes of northern British Columbia, the Ojibwa Indians of Ontario, and has made expeditions to the Bering Straits and to Newfoundland.

The Wellcome Medal for 1940 has been awarded to Dr. Audrey I. Richards for her essay on "Bemba Marriage and Present Economic Conditions". After studying at London and Cambridge, Miss Richards was appointed lecturer in social anthropology at Bedford College for Women, and later she went to the London School of Economics. During 1934-38 and until recently she held a similar post in the University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Richards has been especially interested in social anthropology of the functional type, particularly in psychological problems and in general problems of nutrition. In pursuit of her studies, she has made numerous expeditions to tribes in Northern Rhodesia.

## Mr. Roosevelt and Oxford

Two striking parallel ceremonies took place at Harvard on June 19. Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, was given the honorary degree of doctor of law of Harvard University, and in his capacity of chancellor of the University of Oxford, he presided at a special Convocation, in which he conferred the degree of D.C.L. on President Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt was advised, on account of his temporary indisposition, not to make the journey from Washington to Harvard, but his friend and military aide, General Edwin Watson, represented him and delivered a stirring message of acknowledgment. In the Latin diploma granting the degree prepared for the occasion, reference was made to the