

sophic interests, and from 1923 until 1927 he acted as editor of the *Australasian Journal of Psychology and Philosophy*. In 1927 his Alma Mater recognized his notable services to learning by conferring upon him the degree of doctor of laws. In his later years the cause of the League of Nations claimed much of his time and energy, and he was, from 1931 until 1936, president of the League of Nations Union (New South Wales). In 1936 he was created a knight.

Sir Francis's contribution to the literature of his subject was chiefly in the form of papers; but although he produced no major philosophical work, his influence upon the development of philosophical studies in the land of his adoption was powerful and widespread. The sphere of his academic influence and interests, however, extended far beyond the narrowly philosophical. The social sciences in general found in

him an enthusiastic and untiring champion. Indeed the successive establishment in the University of Sydney of chairs in education (1910), economics (1912) and psychology (1920) was in no small measure due to his energetic advocacy. C. A. CAMPBELL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. C. S. Fisher, acting director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, on July 20, aged sixty-five.

Prof. O. L. Shinn, professor of applied chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, on June 10, aged sixty-nine.

Dr. L. A. Strong, chief of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, on June 2, aged fifty-four.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Sir Prafulla Chandra Rây, C.I.E.

ON August 7 the distinguished Indian chemist, Sir P. C. Rây, will celebrate his eightieth birthday. As a young student, Sir Prafulla was fortunate in coming under the influence of the late Sir Alexander Pedler, then professor of chemistry at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and on his recommendation Sir Prafulla proceeded to work under the late Prof. Crum Brown at Edinburgh, where in due course he graduated with the degree of D.Sc. Returning to India he became professor of chemistry at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and he remained in this post until his retirement under the age limit in 1916. He was then appointed Palit professor of chemistry at the University College of Science, retiring owing to failing eyesight in 1937. Valuable as have been Sir Prafulla's personal investigations, mainly in the field of nitrite chemistry, his outstanding contribution has been the foundation of an Indian school of chemistry. A true 'guru', devoting much of his income to the support of poor students, he sent forth from his laboratories a constant stream of young chemists fired with a zeal for original research. These young chemists now occupy most of the chairs of chemistry in Indian universities.

Sir Prafulla's interests have not been confined solely to academic research; his historical sense is shown in his "History of Hindu Chemistry", and he was responsible also for the foundation of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works. Naturally, Sir Prafulla's important work for India has received general recognition. He was appointed C.I.E. in 1912 and was knighted in 1916. He is a fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and of other Indian academies, and an honorary graduate of the Universities of Durham and Calcutta. He was president of the Indian Science Congress in 1920 and the first president of the Indian Chemical Society (1924). We trust that he may long be spared to inspire Indian youth.

Great Britain and the U.S.S.R.

IN NATURE of July 19, p. 79, brief reference was made to a broadcast from Moscow by Prof. P. Kapitza, which was addressed particularly to scientific workers in Great Britain. Prof. Vladimir Vernadsky, a veteran mineralogist and member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., also broadcast a message. These friendly gestures brought a reply from Prof. A. V. Hill, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society, who broadcast greetings to Russian colleagues and a reply to Prof. Kapitza in the European News sent out by the B.B.C. at midnight on July 14. Since then the Royal Society has dispatched the following cable: "President and Council of Royal Society London send greetings of Royal Society to National Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R. Moscow. Our countries stand firm as partners in struggle against wanton aggression and our united efforts will ensure that the future of science is not endangered by destruction of those freedoms in which has thrived the work of the great scientists of both our countries enshrined in records of past and achievements of present. In the struggle science has already made and will continue to make essential contributions to victory."

Other bodies and individuals have joined in expressing their satisfaction that the U.S.S.R. can now be numbered among the Allies fighting against Nazi domination. The committee of the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science of the British Association has sent to the Academy of Sciences at Moscow a cable welcoming the alliance of British and Russian science, and expressing the hope that they "may in the near future be united in application to the establishment of a new and happier ordering of the affairs of mankind". The Cambridge branch of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. sent a cable signed by the vice-chancellor and other members of the University