

in the enthusiastic lecture on "The Mechanical Conversion of Motion" given by Sylvester to the Royal Institution in 1873, which begins with the Peaucellier Cell of 1864. In the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society* we find "The Composition of Finite Displacements and the Use of Axodes" (1910), "Deformable Octahedra" (1911), "The Skew Isogram Mechanism" (1913), and later, "The Three-bar Sextic Curve" (1920). But a more abstract paper of 1910 is on the double six of lines on a cubic surface; in an appendix to this he suggests a diagram, to which he returns in 1911, for representing all the lines; this is in fact a graphical form for Steiner's set of three complementary systems (1856), to which he does not refer.

In a university which accepts the double task of giving instruction and care to all who are working for its examinations, and of fostering a lively interest in the development of knowledge, many of the best brains among the teachers will be drawn, by loyalty

or discipline, into the former task; and those who feel the importance of the latter may have a hard struggle. It is one of the complaints one has so often heard about some of the provincial universities. In the comparatively easier circumstances at Cambridge, one may say that Bennett made a wise compromise. The writings which he has left will remain as evidence of his great power and ability. H. F. BAKER.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G., president of the university of Toronto, aged seventy-six.

Prof. I. Traube, formerly of the Technische Hochschule, Berlin, and recently of Edinburgh, a well-known physical chemist and a pioneer in the field of surface chemistry, aged eighty-four.

Prof. Einar Lönnberg, the well-known Swedish geologist, died on November 21, 1942, and not on October 21, 1943, as stated in NATURE of November 6.

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society: Medal Awards

HIS Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year as follows: to Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer-Royal, for his determination of the solar parallax and of other fundamental astronomical constants; to Dr. E. B. Bailey, director of H.M. Geological Survey, for his distinguished contributions to the knowledge of mountain structure and his studies on the tectonics of vulcanism.

The following awards of medals have been made by the president and Council of the Royal Society: Copley Medal to Sir Joseph Barcroft, emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge, for his distinguished work on respiration and the respiratory function of the blood; Davy Medal to Prof. I. M. Heilbron, professor of organic chemistry in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, for his many notable contributions to organic chemistry, especially to the chemistry of natural products of physiological importance; Sylvester Medal to Prof. J. E. Littlewood, Rouse Ball professor of mathematics in the University of Cambridge, for his mathematical discoveries and supreme insight in the analytical theory of numbers; Hughes Medal to Prof. M. L. E. Oliphant, Poynting professor of physics in the University of Birmingham, for his distinguished work in nuclear physics and mastery of methods of generating and applying high potentials.

Retirement of Prof. O. T. Jones, F.R.S.

THE retirement of Prof. O. T. Jones from the Woodwardian professorship of geology at Cambridge on September 30 took many of his friends by surprise, so little sign did he show of his approach to the age limit set by the University Statutes. He went to Cambridge from Manchester in 1930, well fitted by his researches in Wales to foster that interest in Lower Palaeozoic stratigraphy and physiographical problems which has long been associated with the Cambridge school of geology. In this work he was

prodigal of personal effort, and the intense fervour with which he threw himself into unravelling the complexities of 'slumping' in the Silurian rocks of Denbighshire is not likely to be forgotten by his staff and students of that time. By no means, however, did he limit himself to these fields, but continually found fresh interests to expound in which his insight seldom failed to bring out new points of capital importance. Indeed his tenure of the chair will be notable for its encouragement of interest in allied subjects; he established a close liaison with experimental geophysics and he was equally ready to collaborate with botanists and archaeologists over the problems of the Fenland and Breckland of East Anglia, and with engineers in the laboratory study of stressed rocks.

That Prof. Jones's broad outlook was not limited to research was shown by the incorporation of practical work on sediments into the elementary geological course at Cambridge, with the establishment of a special laboratory under Mr. Maurice Black. Nor was it geographically circumscribed; in particular, his intercourse with the United States on Lower Palaeozoic and geophysical problems, especially through the collaboration of Prof. R. M. Field of Princeton University, should continue to bear fruit in promoting scientific amity between the two shores of the Atlantic. Though war sadly depleted his department of students, it was quite unable to quell his determination to carry on field-work, and it is confidently hoped that his years of retirement will see the publication of further important research on the Lower Palaeozoic of his own country of Wales.

Abraham Colles (1733-1843)

NOVEMBER 16, 1843, marks the centenary of the death of Abraham Colles, the eminent anatomist and surgeon of Dublin. He was born in 1773 at Milmont, near Kilkenny, and received his medical education at the University of Dublin, where he obtained his diploma at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1795. He afterwards went to Edinburgh, where after two winter sessions he became M.D. He then made a journey, most of the way on foot, to London,