

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. Major Greenwood, F.R.S.

PROF. MAJOR GREENWOOD'S retirement from the chair of epidemiology and vital statistics in the University of London marks the close of an epoch. Beginning his professional career as a physiologist at the London Hospital Medical College, the study of vital statistics early appealed to him. In addition to making advances in the mathematical study of the subject, he applied his knowledge as a touchstone to medical investigation. As statistician to the Lister Institute and, later, as chairman of the Statistical Committee of the Medical Research Council, his severe and wise scrutiny of data gave medical statistics a new meaning and elevated the standards of research into countless medical problems. During the War of 1914-18, he was in charge of the Medical Research Subsection of the Ministry of Munitions. "The Health of the Industrial Worker", written with Prof. Collis, records much of this work. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was fortunate in securing his services in 1926, and he was made a fellow of the Royal Society in 1928. At the London School of Hygiene he soon gathered around him a band of workers trained in his special methods, while his teaching was highly valued by his students.

Prof. Greenwood's investigations with the late Prof. W. W. C. Topley wedded experimental epidemiology to statistical interpretation, and his book on "Epidemics and Crowd Diseases" further enhanced his reputation. The Royal Statistical Society made him its president, and he has enriched its proceedings by many medical and historical papers, which are models of English prose, adorned by wit and incisive epigram. It is not too much to say that Prof. Greenwood's work has revolutionized epidemiology and medical statistics, for he has ever been a searcher after truth and has shattered a multitude of false doctrines which impeded progress. It is satisfactory to know that his pupils—many of whom occupy influential positions—will carry on the torch which he has so successfully kindled. He vacates his chair not only with the regret of all who appreciate his great qualities as pioneer and teacher, but also assured that his work has added considerably to the sum of human knowledge.

Mr. M. A. C. Hinton, F.R.S.

MR. M. A. C. HINTON retired from his position as keeper of the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History) on June 29. He has been associated with the Museum for many years, becoming a voluntary worker in 1910 and an assistant in the Mammal Section in 1921. He was promoted to deputy keeper in 1927 and took charge of the Zoology Department in 1936. His official work has, of necessity, involved most of the mammalian orders, but his principal contributions have been to the knowledge of the Rodentia. Numerous smaller papers, many of them with special reference to the species occurring in the Pleistocene of southern England, culminated in 1926 in the publication of the first volume of his monographic work on "Voles and Lemmings (Microtinae) Living and Extinct".

But Mr. Hinton's interests have by no means been restricted to the purely taxonomic aspects of his subject. He has given considerable attention to the economic significance of rodents as enemies of man. His investigations into the musk rat menace in

Britain entailed long, arduous periods in the field both in England and Germany. The order Cetacea has also attracted Mr. Hinton's attention. He prepared the report for the Interdepartmental Committee on Whaling from the papers left by Major Barrett Hamilton, who died while making investigations in South Georgia. This report is the foundation of much that was done eventually to ensure that whaling is carried out in a way least harmful to the stock from which the catches are made. It is hoped that Mr. Hinton, freed from the routine of an official post, will enjoy a long and active retirement, and that it will give him the opportunities he has long sought to concentrate on those zoological problems which, with his great knowledge and experience, he should do so much to elucidate.

Sir D'Arcy Thompson and Oxford

ON June 28, Sir D'Arcy Thompson, professor of natural history in the University of St. Andrews, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of civil law by the University of Oxford. In presenting him to the vice-chancellor, the public orator (Mr. T. F. Higham) said that science and the classics each claim Sir D'Arcy as their own: as doctor of civil law, Sir D'Arcy will himself now be empowered to settle their rival claims. Mr. Higham also stressed the point that Sir D'Arcy has achieved the distinction, never more to be rivalled, of having been for no less than sixty years a professor. On the evening of the same day, Sir D'Arcy was the guest at a dinner party at which the announcement was made of a presentation volume of essays written in his honour, to be published very shortly by the Clarendon Press. Apart from contributors to the volume, there were present the vice-chancellor, Sir David Ross, Prof. E. S. Goodrich, Sir Henry Tizard, Prof. A. C. Dixon and Mr. Kenneth Sisam; and telegrams of congratulation received from many parts of the world were read.

Aeronautical Engineering at Bristol:

Prof. A. R. Collar

MR. A. R. COLLAR has been appointed to the White chair of aeronautical engineering recently endowed in the University of Bristol by the Bristol Aeroplane Company; he will take up his appointment on his release from national service. Mr. Collar was educated at Simon Langton School, Canterbury, and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, taking honours in mathematics and physics; he also took an honours degree in physics of the University of London. In 1929 he joined the staff of the Aerodynamics Department of the National Physical Laboratory, where he remained until the beginning of the War, since when he has been specially attached to the staff of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. At Teddington he carried out a wide range of aeronautical investigations, of which those affecting wind-tunnel design and aeroplane flutter problems are probably the most generally known. He is the author of many reports published by the Aeronautical Research Committee, and was for some time secretary of the Airscrew Panel and the Fluid Motion Panel of that Committee. Mr. Collar went to Farnborough to take charge of a special group of scientific men and engineers investigating aeroplane flutter and vibration problems. Working in close contact with aeroplane designing firms, this group has contributed notably to the safety of British aeroplanes.