

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. W. F. P. McIntock: Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain

THE appointment of Dr. W. F. P. McIntock to succeed Sir Edward Bailey as director of H.M. Geological Survey and Museum is especially fitting at this stage in the long history of that institution. Dr. McIntock's keen analytical mind, his long administrative experience and his gifts for effective planning and exposition, are now brought most opportunely to the re-organization of the Survey's peace-time activities. After graduating at the University of Edinburgh, Dr. McIntock joined the Geological Survey in 1907 as assistant curator in the Museum of Practical Geology. In 1911 he left the Survey to take charge of the Geological Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, where he was responsible for the exhibits of the Geological Survey in Scotland. In 1921 he rejoined the Survey as curator and became deputy director in 1937.

Dr. McIntock's research has been concerned with the crystallography, mineralogy and paragenesis of the rare minerals datolite and petalite from Cornwall, with topaz and beryl from Lundy Island, and with zeolites from the Tertiary lavas of Mull. Of especial interest is his account of the metamorphism of sedimentary rocks by the combustion of hydrocarbons in south-west Persia. He described the Strathmore meteorite. His most important contributions, however, have been concerned with geophysical methods of geological survey. In 1926 he proceeded to Persia to study, under the auspices of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, field methods of geophysical survey; and later, in collaboration with Dr. J. Phemister, he executed a number of surveys—gravimetric and magnetic—over geological structures such as dykes, faults, unconformities and buried channels, in order to obtain data for the critical appreciation of the value of geophysical methods in geological surveying. Dr. McIntock undertook the replanning of the Museum of Practical Geology on its transference from Jermyn Street to the South Kensington site, and was responsible for the scheme of exhibition in the new Museum. The success of this Museum and its recognition as the foremost geological museum of the world are mainly due to his untiring and enlightened directive efforts. Geologists look forward with confidence to the speedy recovery of its former glories.

Mr. A. A. Kift

MR. A. A. KIFT, who has served for forty-three years with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd. and during the last twenty years has been successively sales manager, assistant engineer-in-chief and contracts manager, retired from the Company's service at the end of August. Mr. Kift is one of the best known Marconi officials and is one of those engineers who joined soon after the Company's formation and may be said to be responsible for laying its foundations. Like many of those early wireless pioneers, Mr. Kift received his training as an electrical engineer at Finsbury Technical College. After a further specialized course at the Marconi Training College at Frinton, he was appointed to the erecting staff and was engaged in fitting some of the first half-dozen White Star liners which were equipped with wireless in and about the year 1902 at a time when a range of 50–100 miles with a coherer receiver

was regarded as very satisfactory communication. After that, Mr. Kift's work for the Company, afloat and ashore, ranged from the Labrador coast to Varna on the Black Sea, with the erection of stations round the English coast interspersed with his foreign travel.

Institute of Fuel: Deputy Secretary

MR. REYNOLDS-DAVIES has been appointed deputy secretary of the Institute of Fuel. Mr. Reynolds-Davies received his technical education at University College, Cardiff, and the South Wales School of Mines. He has had a wide experience as a chemical engineer and fuel technologist for several years. His industrial experience was obtained first of all as chemist on the Coke Oven Plant of the Cambrian Combine, now merged with the Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries, Limited. He was later engaged as assistant with the late Dr. W. R. Ormandy on Power Alcohol and Petroleum Products. This work was followed by nine years as one of the chemical plant managers with the British Industrial Solvents, Ltd. For the past three years, he has held the position of manager of the Development Department of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend.

Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

THE thirty-first annual report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, covering the year 1944, shows that the total expenditure on grants amounted to rather more than £71,000, the highest annual figure reached during the War. This includes £10,000 in aid of a post-war experiment to be undertaken in Shropshire, where a community house is to be established to serve partly as a residential college for short-term courses of adult education, but also as a focal point for cultural activities within the county. A special grant of £3,000 has also been made to Toynbee Hall to enable it to extinguish a deficit, largely on building account, the continued existence of which is due mainly to war conditions. A grant of £2,000 has been promised to the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies towards the initial cost of adapting and equipping a pioneer field centre at Flatford Mill, Suffolk (see *Nature*, 155, 744; 1945). The largest block of expenditure during the year was on youth services, which took nearly £22,000 as against £23,000 in 1943. Grants to the headquarters of national youth organizations decreased by about £3,000, but club equipment grants increased by about £6,000 to £15,000. The Trust intends to continue for a further period its provision of grants in aid of the equipment of hostels and camps provided by national and voluntary youth organizations, under detailed conditions which have been communicated to the organizations likely to be concerned. Discussions with the National Association of Boys' Clubs have been proceeding during the year, and the Trust has agreed in principle to provide the capital sum required for the acquisition and the first stage of adaptation of a country house in which the Association proposes to set up a residential institution for standardized training. A report has also been requested by the Trust on periodical literature for juveniles, with the view of considering improvements in this field, and the report is to be prepared on its behalf and at its expense by the Research Department of the National Council of Social Service. The endowment income of the Trust amounted in 1944 to £122,801, and of this £80,366 was expended on grants and administration.