brings the story to the Turkish conquest in 1571. Meanwhile, he did valuable service as editor of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, edited a handbook of "Sources for Greek History", and extended his special studies to Italian coins and medals, and the practical art of die-engraving. His great "Corpus of Italian Medals before Cellini" is his monument in this field.

In 1931, Hill succeeded Sir Frederic Kenyon as director and principal librarian of the British Museum, for which he acquired the biblical "Codex Sinaiticus" from the Soviet Government, and the Eumorphopoulos collection of Oriental antiquities, and where he planted the almond trees in the forecourt. He was created K.C.B. in 1933 and retired in 1936. He took an active interest in the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the Joint Archæological Committee, and the Hellenic and Numismatic Societies; and published a standard treatise on "Treasure Trove".

Hill died in London on October 18, while a memorial volume of the *Hellenic Journal* and a bibliography, compiled by his many friends, were still with the printers. JOHN L. MYRES

Mr. O. H. Latter

THE death of O. H. Latter on October 11 has removed not only a pioneer in science-teaching in schools but also one who, at the age of eighty-four, was as keen in sight and in mind and as ardent a correspondent as men sixty years his junior. His last letter in the *School Science Review*—characteristically both recalling a lecture of his Oxford days and insisting on accuracy to-day—appeared in June this year; and only two days before his death, while gardening, he shot one of his chief enemies, a grey squirrel.

Latter went as a boy to Charterhouse in 1878 and found there two science masters and no laboratory. In 1887 he took a first class in natural science at Oxford and became Berkeley fellow of Owens College, Manchester; he returned to Oxford in the following year as senior demonstrator to the Linacre professor. Next year he returned also to Keble as tutor. It was largely by chance—a very fortunate chance for science teaching—that in 1890 he returned to Charterhouse as senior science master. There he remained for thirty-six years, during ten of which he was a housemaster.

Latter's special interest was in Lepidoptera, Diptera and most particularly Hymenoptera. His paper in the *Cornhill* on wasps is typical of his gifts for observation and sympathetic exposition. But no branch of natural history escaped him. He contributed to various scientific journals papers on shell-fish, the rabbit, puss-moth, cuckoo's eggs, an odd contortion in dog's mercury, and as a 'holiday task' in his seventieth year (with H. Eltringham) on the scent mechanism of the male *Euplœa*. No living thing seemed to him to have been so well studied that nothing new could be observed about it, as witness his papers on the breathing of tadpoles (1923) and the dispersal of burdock (1941).

But Latter was far more than an observer, a writer of broad and lucid text-books and a teacher, great as is the debt his pupils owe to him and continue to acknowledge. He was a founder of what was then the 'Public Schools' Science Masters' Association', and his profound belief in the value of science (and especially biology) as an essential, and not merely a vocational, element in education has had an influence far beyond the public schools. Addresses of his exist on this, his favourite, subject to the British Association, the Association of Preparatory Schoolmasters and the Rotary Club of Colombo; and apart from this wider appeal his public spirit made him for many years the most valued chairman of Godalming Higher Education and Corporation Museum Committees and of the governors of Godalming County School. Fifty-eight years of meteorological observations have ended with his passing: his immense contribution to education remains. J. C. THOMSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Johan Hjort, For.Mem.R.S., known for his sea-fisheries investigations, on October 7, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. Gustave Roussy, *académicien libre* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, formerly rector of the Sorbonne and director of the Cancer Institute of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, on September 30, aged seventy-three.

Dr. J. H. M. Wedderburn, F.R.S., professor of mathematics in Princeton University, aged sixty-six.

Dr. C. M. Wenyon, C.M.G., F.R.S., formerly director-in-chief, Wellcome Research Institution, on October 24.

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. Lise Meitner

WHEN, on November 7, Dr. Lise Meitner celebrates her seventieth birthday, her many friends will offer her their warmest congratulations and respectful admiration on a life of great activity, during which she has maintained the highest reputation for experimental discoveries in radioactivity and nuclear physics. Dr. Meitner studied under Boltzmann in Vienna. Moving to Berlin, she was for a time '*Assistent*' to Planck. She then joined Otto Hahn and thus began a long and rich collaboration, ended only by her flight from the Nazi regime. Her investigations during this period of about thirty years are so many and so varied that only a few can be mentioned here. An early joint paper on the absorption of β-rays was followed by the discovery, with von Baeyer, of homogeneous groups in the β-ray emission from radioactive bodies. This opened up a new field, to which she returned again and again in subsequent years, taking a leading part in the elucidation of β- and γ-ray spectra and in the study of the properties of β- and γ-rays. To the earlier period of collaboration belongs also the discovery of protoactinium in 1918. In later years she worked with Hahn, and also with Strassmann, on the neutron-induced radioactivity of uranium. After Hahn and Strassmann had discovered the presence of active barium in irradiated uranium, and thereby established the division of the uranium nucleus, Dr. Meitner and her nephew O. R. Frisch gave, in a letter in *Nature* in March 1939, the first physical

picture of the fission process, introducing the term 'fission' and making an estimate of the energy liberation. Using the method of recoil, which she and Hahn had applied so effectively in the early days of radioactivity, she was later able to show that the bodies previously called 'transuranic' did, in fact, originate by fission. Since 1939, Dr. Meitner has worked in Stockholm, where she now directs a small but active laboratory. Enjoying good health and abundant energy she can, while looking back on a life full of high achievement, also look forward to further years of happiness and success.

Nobel Prize for Medicine : Dr. Paul Müller

THE award of the Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1948 has been made to Dr. Paul Müller for his discovery of the effects as an insecticide of D.D.T. Drs. P. Läuger, P. Müller and H. Martin were the leaders of an intensive research for insecticidal chemicals in the Basle laboratories of J. R. Geigy, S.A., which extended more than twenty years. The researches were directed originally towards the discovery of moth-proofing agents to be incorporated in fabrics. It was in the section of research entrusted to Paul Müller that D.D.T. was actually synthesized and its contact insecticidal properties discovered. It seems to have been in the course of field trials that its remarkable effectiveness against the Colorado beetle was noticed. It was soon found to be equally toxic to the louse and the mosquito. The material was brought to the notice of medical entomologists in Great Britain and the United States at a critical moment in the War when the supplies of pyrethrum were rapidly falling short of the demand. Soon it was being produced in very large quantities on both sides of the Atlantic. It proved of enormous value in combating typhus and malaria during the War, and now it is being employed with success in campaigns for the complete eradication of malaria from island areas. It is an equally valuable weapon in agricultural entomology and has provided a great stimulus to the search for yet other insecticides.

Dr. G. M. Vevers

DR. G. M. VEVERS, superintendent of the Zoological Society of London, will be retiring for medical reasons at the end of the year. He received his medical education at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and served in the First World War as a captain in the R.A.M.C. After demobilization he became assistant to Prof. R. T. Leiper, in the Department of Helminthology of the London School of Tropical Medicine, and was awarded a Beit Medical Fellowship for Medical Research in parasitology. The same year he was also appointed honorary parasitologist to the Zoological Society and spent much of his time in the Society's prosectorium. In 1921 he went to British Guiana on a Colonial Office inquiry into filariasis. In 1923 Dr. Vevers was appointed superintendent of the Zoological Society in succession to the late R. I. Pocock. He introduced the application of the general principles of hygiene to wild animals in captivity, paying particular attention to the helminthic infections which used to be such a frequent cause of death in newly imported animals. He also introduced improvements in diet and housing, resulting in a reduction of the incidence of dietetic diseases and epidemics such as tuberculosis. He was also responsible for carrying out the extensive building programme at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, following the First World War.

Dr. Vevers was closely associated with the late Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell in the formation and development of Whipsnade Zoological Park, in which he took a very special interest. He also designed the layout of the Dudley Zoological Gardens, and since the Second World War has been engaged in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Zoo at Regent's Park. He is the author of numerous papers on helminthology and the keeping and breeding of animals in captivity ; also children's books and other books on general natural history, and has been a regular broadcaster in the B.B.C. Children's Hour and other programmes. He was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1946 ; and has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Zoological Society of London, and the Gold Medal of the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland. After his retirement Dr. Vevers will continue to reside at Whipsnade, and will be available for consultation by the Society in an advisory capacity.

Botany at Rothamsted : Dr. Winifred E. Brenchley

ON her retirement from the post of head of the Botany Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, on October 1, Dr. Winifred E. Brenchley had completed forty-two years of service there. She went to Rothamsted in 1906 as the holder of a Gilchrist Studentship of the University of London, and in the following year was appointed to the permanent staff. Dr. Brenchley was the first woman member of the staff, and it says much for her personality and for the quality of her work that the appointment was an immediate success and paved the way for many other women to undertake research in agricultural science at Rothamsted. Dr. Brenchley was a pioneer in the study of the effects of micronutrient elements on plant growth, and is an acknowledged authority in this field. Before the importance of elements such as boron, copper and manganese in plant nutrition was fully appreciated, she began a long series of solution-culture studies on elements other than the ten known to be essential. Her monograph "Inorganic Plant Poisons and Stimulants", published in 1914, described her own results and provided a valuable critical summary of the scattered information then existing on the subject. The investigation of the effects of boron made afterwards is perhaps the best-known work from her laboratory. Dr. Brenchley's other chief interests have been in the ecology of weeds, and in the changes with time in the flora of the permanent Park Grass plots at Rothamsted. The results of her earlier studies on these plots provided material for her book "Manuring of Grassland for Hay", published in 1924. Dr. Brenchley has played a very active part in the social life of Rothamsted, and in recognition of her long-continued interest in the welfare of all members of the staff, a presentation was made to her at a party held on October 22, attended by many of her past and present colleagues. Dr. Brenchley is to continue her research work at Rothamsted on a part-time basis. Her successor as head of the Botany Department is Dr. D. J. Watson, formerly in charge of the Crop Physiology Section, which has now been merged with the Botany Department.

Indian Archæology at the University of London

ON October 28, at the Institute of Archæology, London, Prof. K. deB. Codrington, the newly appointed professor of Indian archæology, gave an in-