

vated plants, and the association of certain important biological characters with polyploidy, led to speculation about the possible application of artificially inducing polyploids—both autopolyploids and allopolyploids—to plant breeding. The cytogenetic department at Svalöf developed these ideas, and with the discovery of the colchicine technique considerable impetus was given to both the fundamental scientific aspects and the breeding approach. In addition, work was developed on the artificial induction of mutations, a problem which had attracted Nilsson-Ehle since his studies of naturally occurring mutant forms in wheat, barley and rye, and on which he had published many papers.

After his retirement, Nilsson-Ehle continued to be actively interested in plant-breeding. It was due to his energetic interest that institutes for the improvement of forest trees and fruit trees were founded, while he himself devoted time to the breeding of the giant aspen. His great energies and capacity for work have left their mark on scientific research, on agriculture through crop improvement, and on the institutes which he guided. In the academic sphere his long association with the lecture room and laboratory inspired and stimulated a great number of students and research workers who came under his influence, and it is gratifying to know that his name was honoured by the creation of a fund in 1943, the revenue from which will be used for stimulating genetics research. G. D. H. BELL

Prof. G. H. Livens

WITH the unexpected death of Prof. G. H. Livens on March 26, the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff, has lost not only a distinguished mathematician, but also one who has rendered valuable service to the College for the long period of twenty-seven years.

Born in 1886, he received his early education at the Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, before proceeding to Jesus College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he had a distinguished career, being bracketed fourth wrangler in Part I of the Mathematical Tripos of 1909, the last year in which the lists were published in order of merit, and being placed in Class I, Division 2, in Part II in 1910. In 1911 he was awarded the first Smith's Prize, and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of Jesus College.

Meanwhile he had been appointed lecturer in geometry at the University of Sheffield, where he stayed until 1919, when he became senior mathematical lecturer at the University of Manchester. He was elected to the chair of mathematics at Cardiff in 1922.

It was during his period in Sheffield that Prof. Livens started to publish numerous papers on electrical theory, and his "Theory of Electricity" was first published in 1918. Later he published papers in many branches of applied mathematics, but chiefly in electrical theory, magnetism and thermodynamics.

In educational affairs generally, Prof. Livens took a very active part. Besides his departmental duties, he gave loyal service in the faculties and the Senate, and in the many committees on which he served he was always much esteemed, not only for his personal integrity and sincerity, but also for the valuable contributions he made to the business under discussion. His decisions were made without prejudice, and with no thought of personal interest.

Prof. Livens's interests extended beyond the University, however, in many directions—to the mathematical courses in the Welsh training colleges, to the Central Welsh Board as an examiner and adviser for many years, to the local branch of the Mathematical Association—and it may well be said that he did great service in guiding the development of the study of mathematics in Wales. His value as an examiner is also shown by the fact that he was an external examiner for the University of London from 1929 until his death.

Prof. Livens will be remembered with affection by many generations of students who always found him willing to be helpful; his staff will remember with gratitude his continual readiness to discuss all aspects of their departmental and research work, and also the value of his advice and guidance.

R. M. MORRIS

Dr. F. W. Foxworthy

DR. FRED WILLIAM FOXWORTHY, forest research officer during 1918–32 in the Federated Malay States, died suddenly in Berkeley, California, on February 4. He was the younger son of a Methodist minister, and was born on July 7, 1877, at Goodland in the State of Indiana. His education to 1899, when he graduated in science at the De Pauw University, was within his native State; then he proceeded to Cornell, where he was given a teaching post and took the degree of Ph.D. in botany (1902). Many knew him in those college days as a boxer, a football player and a redoubtable baseball player. In 1906 he was appointed a botanist in the Bureau of Science, Manila, and gradually became a forester: a dominating interest in the ecology of the forests led to it.

The trees having determined his bent, he was made wood technologist in the Bureau and associate professor of dendrology in the University of Manila. It was natural that he should turn from the Philippine forests to compare them with those of other parts of Malaysia; and, with the conservator of forests, British North Borneo, he published in 1917 an account of the mangrove and nipa swamps of northern Borneo through which runs a comparison of these formations in the two places. In 1918 he accepted the appointment of forest research officer under the Government of the Federated Malay States. This new post brought to him unrivalled opportunities for work; and he used them to great advantage: splendid undamaged forests were coming under control, and the large active staff controlling them was ripe to aid in collecting specimens and making observations; his part was to sift, to direct and to attach the technology to the botany. Building up a small museum of forest products and a forest herbarium, he had by 1927 materials for his "Commercial Timbers of the Malay Peninsula" (*Mal. For. Rec.*, No. 5) and, on a narrower front, by 1932, materials for his "Dipterocarpaceæ of the Malay Peninsula" (*Mal. For. Rec.*, No. 10): at various dates there were less exacting publications. The second of the two named greatly advanced our precise knowledge of the chief sources of Malayan timber.

Retired at his age limit, Dr. Foxworthy went back to the United States and, marrying, settled at Berkeley, California, living actively, teaching, writing, joining in the scientific life of the neighbourhood of San Francisco, and during the Second World War called to war work. In 1936 he was president of the California Botanical Society. Later he wrote for the

Chronica Botanica Publishing Company a book which will shortly appear under the title "Forests and Forestry of Tropical Asia" embodying his wide experience. In the course of working on it, he built up a great index of references to forest products—references to ten thousand species of plants, he told the writer; and this index, he added, if fated to go unprinted, is to be turned over to one of the forestry centres.
I. H. BURKILL

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. A. B. Appleton, emeritus professor of anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital, University of London, on April 22, aged sixty-one.

Mr. F. F. R. Channer, C.I.E., O.B.E., sometime chief conservator of forests, India, aged seventy-four.

Mr. J. B. Scrivenor, L.S.O., formerly director of the Geological Survey, Federated Malay States, on April 21, aged seventy-three.

NEWS and VIEWS

"Soviet Genetics: the Real Issue"

THE publication of Dr. Julian Huxley's two articles under this title in *Nature* of June 18 and 25, 1949, provoked widespread interest. Such a topic could clearly not be allowed to become the subject of debate in the correspondence columns of this journal; although feeling might run high, there can be relatively few who have first-hand knowledge to bring to the discussion. Dr. T. Marchlewski, writing from Cracow, claims such direct knowledge, and a short communication by him, followed by Dr Huxley's reply, appears on p. 731 of this issue. A very full statement of the Soviet point of view was also received from Prof. N. I. Nuzhdin, of the Institute of Genetics, Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Much of this was in terms which, although perhaps regarded in the U.S.S.R. as the normal way of conducting a controversy, would appear merely offensive when translated into English. The article was accordingly abridged by the Editors, and a proof of the shortened version submitted to Prof. Nuzhdin in Moscow. The following reply, dated April 13, has now been received: "Regret delay in answering your letter March twenty-first in view necessity communicate with Professor Nuzhdin in China. Received his reply to-day. Professor Nuzhdin consents publication article as given in galley proof but extremely regrets fact that editors deem it impossible publish article in original form written by him. On authorisation of Professor Nuzhdin, Lavrova secretary". The abridged article is therefore published in this issue of *Nature* (see p. 704).

Psychology at University College, London:

Sir Cyril L. Burt

SIR CYRIL BURT was elected to the chair of psychology in University College, London, in 1931. He now retires after a period of most distinguished service, one of the acknowledged leaders in his subject, not only in Great Britain, but also throughout the world. Already, before his selection as successor to the late Prof. C. E. Spearman, Sir Cyril had developed all three of his main official psychological interests: in methods and devices of intelligence and other forms of tests, in statistics applied to psychological tests and experimental results, and in the fundamental problems of juvenile delinquency. During the past eighteen years he has consolidated his position and greatly broadened his contributions in all these fields, but more particularly in the field of psychological statistics. He himself and the very large number of students who have been guided and inspired by him have made by far the most striking contributions of the day to the theory and practice of factor analysis; and not only in his book "The Factors of the Mind", but also in a large number of more recently published articles, he has provided a

broad psychological foundation for this method of approach which will be a permanent memorial to his years of leadership at University College. Apart from his more official labours, Sir Cyril has endeared himself to a very large number of students and colleagues by his unfailing sympathy, humour and insight, and by his very wide interests extending far beyond academic boundaries into a broad range of contemporary problems.

Dr. R. W. Russell

DR. ROGER WOLCOTT RUSSELL, who will succeed Sir Cyril Burt, is a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, and he graduated at Clark University, Worcester, so long associated in the minds of psychologists in Great Britain with Stanley Hall, its first president. There, Dr. Russell took his master's degree in psychology in 1936, and later his doctorate at the University of Virginia. During the Second World War he was a research psychologist in the United States Army Air Force School of Aviation Medicine and was engaged on personnel selection and other inquiries, which brought him on two occasions to work with units serving in Great Britain. After the War he became associate professor in the University of Pittsburgh. In June of last year he was appointed to a Fulbright advanced research scholarship by the United States Department of State, and has since then been working as director of the new Animal Research Laboratory established by the University of London at the Institute of Psychiatry. Dr. Russell's earliest investigations were mainly in the field of child psychology, on which he has published numerous papers. He has also published some of his investigations carried out during the War, notably a study of the effects of anoxia on mental dexterity, and results obtained with psychological procedures for the selection of officers for the Air Force. During the past two years he has been carrying out investigations in animal psychology, largely with the view of throwing light on the effects of electro-convulsive shock as administered to human beings.

Zoology at Queen Mary College, London:

Prof. A. J. Grove

PROF. ALFRED JOHN GROVE, who retires from the chair of zoology at Queen Mary College (University of London) at the end of the present session, is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, where he was a contemporary of his friend and collaborator in the well-known series of dissection manuals, Dr. R. H. Whitehouse. Prof. Grove left Birmingham with an 1851 Exhibition research scholarship for Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. by research. This was in 1919; but before that he had seen service as an entomologist in the Indian