

Science Museum; and about twenty papers in scientific journals, mainly on applied geophysics.

He was president of the Museums Association, honorary treasurer of the Physical Society, a trustee of the Imperial War Museum, a governor of the Imperial College and a manager of the Royal Institution.

He is survived by his widow; their only son died as a young man in 1946. F. A. B. WARD

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. P. N. Annand, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S. Department of Agriculture, on March 29, aged fifty-one.

Dr. Oskar Baudisch, director of research in the New York State Research Institute of Balneology and Hydrotherapy since 1934, known for work on cupferron and neo-cupferron as analytical reagents, on March 28, aged sixty-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

University College of North Staffordshire:

Prof. A. R. Gemmell

DR. A. R. GEMMELL, who was recently elected to the chair of biology in the University College of North Staffordshire, is thirty-seven years of age. He received his training in the University of Glasgow and later, as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow, in the University of Minnesota. Dr. Gemmell has a wide experience in biology, for he has held a post in the Forensic Science Department of the Home Office, a lectureship in plant pathology and physiology in the University of Glasgow, and he is at present lecturer in botany in the University of Manchester. His early research was in the field of plant pathology; recently he has turned his attention to bryophytes, and he has made original and interesting observations both on their physiology and on their geographical distribution. In Manchester, Dr. Gemmell has played an important part in broadening the scope of teaching in the faculty of science and in dealing with student affairs. Both in experience and temperament he is well equipped to take part in the ambitious experiment of founding a university with unusual aims and exceptional opportunities.

Dr. A. Mittasch's Eightieth Birthday

DR. ALWIN MITTASCH, whose eightieth birthday was celebrated recently in Heidelberg, is well known in the world of chemistry for his pioneering work on catalysis and his connexion with the Haber nitrogen-fixation process. Having studied catalysis under Ostwald, he became a collaborator of Carl Bosch in the Badische Anilinfabrik, Ludwigshafen, and after innumerable experiments he succeeded in discovering the suitable catalysing agents which made it possible to apply the Haber process commercially. Dr. Mittasch enjoyed for a long time the exceptional distinction of being a member of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences without ever having taught at a university, and it was only on the occasion of his eightieth anniversary that he was awarded the title of professor. His far-reaching researches on catalysis have led him beyond the boundaries of chemistry; for example, he has made a deep study of the distinction between release causality, which is that observed in catalysis, and the ordinary mechanical causality—a distinction which was particularly emphasized by Robert Mayer. Altogether, he has written a number of books on chemistry and related subjects. One of his most recent works, "From Chemistry to Philosophy", which was published in 1948, is a collection of essays, the first part of which deals with catalysis in its widest aspect, the second with causality in Nature, and the third with Schopenhauer, Robert Mayer and Nietzsche. Probably Dr. Mittasch's most

recent publication is an article on, "The Other Nietzsche", which contains the following Nietzsche quotation: "The continuance of Christian ideals is one of the most desirable things. (Only the tyranny should stop.)"

Honours to Swedish Oceanographers

PROF. HANS PETERSSON, director of the Oceanographical Institute, Gothenburg, has recently been awarded the Vega Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of Sweden and also the Galathea Medal of the Royal Danish Geographical Society. The former honour is named after the Swedish expedition in the *Vega*, which, with the explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskjöld as leader, was the first to sail through the North-East Passage in 1878–80, and the Medal is awarded annually in recognition of prominent achievements in the field of exploration. The latter, named after a Danish corvette which in 1845–47 circumnavigated the globe carrying a party of scientific workers engaged in geographical and oceanographical investigations, is awarded for services to these sciences. Prof. Pettersson is an internationally known authority on oceanography and was the leader of the Swedish Deep-Sea Expedition in the round-the-world voyage of the *Albatross* during 1947–48 (see *Nature*, 160, 559; 1947, and 162, 324; 1948); for this work he was awarded the Patron's Medal for 1949 of the Royal Geographical Society (of Great Britain) (see *Nature*, 163, 595; 1949). His close associate and compatriot, Dr. B. Kullenberg, to whom is due the piston core-sampler which was the main tool on the *Albatross* expedition in the investigation of the deep-ocean floor, has been awarded the Wahlberg Gold Medal for his services to the cause of marine research. Previous recipients of this honour, which is given by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography, include Sven Hedin and Erik Norden-skjöld.

Western Union Cultural Identity Cards

A CULTURAL identity card has been instituted by the Brussels Treaty Organisation, which will give certain facilities and privileges to nationals of each of the five Treaty countries when travelling in the other four for cultural purposes. In Article III of the Brussels Treaty, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom undertook to strengthen their cultural relations with each other. They have therefore made it one of their first tasks to encourage travelling and residence abroad by teachers, research workers, artists and men of science, for visits associated with the improvement of their professional knowledge or with research work. The