and his room was full of strange gadgets of his own devising, including a sewing-machine converted into a microscope and a bacon-slicer adapted to rock-cutting. The Croft parallel grinding apparatus is in use in many palæontological laboratories. His colleagues will greatly miss not only his judgment and his insistence on the highest standards in everything he touched, but also his singularly attractive charm of manner.   W. N. EDWARDS

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. H. M. Hallsworth, C.B.E., first Dale professor of economics in the University of Durham.

Dr. B. Mouat Jones, lately vice-chancellor of the University of Leeds, on September 11, aged seventy.

Mr. A. Marcan, formerly government chemist and chief assayer in Siam, aged sixty-nine.

NEWS and VIEWS

H. Kamerlingh Onnes (1853–1926)

HEIKE KAMERLINGH ONNES, "le gentleman du zéro absolu", was born at Groningen in Holland a century ago, on September 21, 1853. After studying mathematics and physics at the local university, he went to Heidelberg in 1871 to work under R. W. Bunsen and G. R. Kirchhoff. Eight years later he obtained his degree at Groningen with a thesis entitled "New Proofs of the Rotation of the Earth about an Axis". In 1882, at the age of twenty-nine, he was appointed professor of experimental physics and meteorology at Leyden, where he afterwards established the Cryogenic Laboratory which was destined to become famous throughout the world. Under the influence of J. D. van der Waals, Kamerlingh Onnes studied the equations of state and the general thermodynamic properties of liquids and gases. A pioneer of exact physical measurements at low temperatures, his name is associated particularly with the liquefaction of helium in 1908 and with the discovery of the phenomenon of superconductivity. He was a great organizer possessed of infinite patience, and a master of experimental technique, and he trained a staff which included glass-blowers, skilled mechanics and scientific workers from all parts of the world. Kamerlingh Onnes received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1913 and the Rumford Medal of the Royal Society in 1912. He was elected foreign member of the Royal Society in 1916, honorary fellow of the Chemical Society in 1920, and corresponding member of the Prussian Academy in 1923. During the First World War and during the early post-war years he devoted himself whole-heartedly to relief work in Europe. Modest, genial, cheerful and universally beloved, he died on February 21, 1926.

Earthquake in Western Cyprus

ON September 10, at about 6 a.m. local time, an earthquake occurred with epicentre slightly north of Paphos in Cyprus. The shock, which was registered at Edinburgh, was slightly less intense than the most important of the recent earthquakes in the islands in the Ionian Sea, but nevertheless it caused severe damage and casualties. Three villages, Kithasi, Stroumbi and Ayios Nikolaos, were almost completely destroyed and some 135 other villages within a twenty-mile radius from Ktima were seriously damaged. Much damage was done in Paphos, and the electricity supply and other public services were interrupted. About forty persons were killed and more than a hundred severely injured. Some of the casualties were taken to the hospital at Limassol, where the earthquake was also felt. About fifteen hundred people are known to be homeless as a result of the earthquake. Limassol was shaken by a slight earthquake last year ; but the greatest of the recent

past earthquakes in Cyprus happened on January 20, 1941. According to the International Seismological Summary, produced at Kew, the epicentre was at lat. 35·2° N., long. 33·6° E., which is just north-east of Nicosia. This shock, according to J. P. Rothe, of Strasbourg, was felt with intensity IX at Paralimni, thirteen miles from Famagusta (see also *Nature*, 148, 145 and 174 (1941) ; and 149, 640 (1942)). The depth of focus may have been 100 km. Shocks have occurred at other times from epicentres near Nicosia, near Limassol and at sea to the south of Paphos. Other epicentres have been at sea east of Cyprus (between Cyprus and Latakia). The line of past epicentres appears to stretch from Alexandria in Egypt to Nicosia in Cyprus and then to bend to the east, so that the present epicentre is somewhat north-west of this line.

Fifth British Mathematical Colloquium, Durham, 1953

THE fifth British Mathematical Colloquium was held in Durham during September 8–10. Members were accommodated in University College and Hatfield College, and the main lectures were given in the Applebey Lecture Theatre of the recently opened Science Buildings. Analysis, topology and differential geometry, number theory and algebra were each given one day, the programmes being : September 8 : J. L. B. Cooper, "Critical Point Methods of Functional Analysis" ; J. D. Weston, "Convolution Algebras" ; H. R. Pitt, "Convergence of Fourier Series" ; September 9 : J. H. C. Whitehead, "The Elements of Homotopy Theory" ; M. G. Barratt, "The Calculation of Homotopy Groups" ; A. H. Stone, "Coverings of Topological Spaces" ; A. G. Walker, "Differential Geometry in the Large" ; September 10 : K. Mahler, "The Formal Approximation of Analytic Functions by Rational Functions" ; E. M. Wright, "Problems about Prime Numbers" ; R. A. Rankin, "The Minkowski–Hajós Theorem on Linear Forms and the Factorisation of Abelian Groups" ; R. Rado, "Existence Combinatorics— Order in Chaos". In addition, 'splinter groups' displayed much enthusiasm in afternoon discussions of recent research topics in algebra, analysis, algebraic and differential geometry, topology and number theory. The stimulus of talks and debates on present-day activities in mathematical research was felt by all members of the Colloquium. The sixth Colloquium is to be held at Cambridge in April 1954.

Forests, Catchment Areas and Water Supplies throughout the World

UNDER the title of "Forests, Catchment Areas and Water Supplies" (*Indian Forest Records* (New Series), Silviculture, **7**, No. 4, 258 ; 1952), a series of articles by Prof. E. P. Stebbing has been reprinted