

News and Views

R. L. Hobson, C.B.

MR. ROBERT LOCKHART HOBSON, keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities and Ethnography of the British Museum (Bloomsbury), will retire on July 20. Mr. Hobson, who was educated at St. John's, Leatherhead, and Trinity College, Cambridge, taking a first class in the Classical Tripos in 1893, joined the staff of the British Museum in 1897, when he was attached to the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities and Ethnography. Specializing in the study of ceramics, his early published work dealt with English pottery and porcelain, but later he directed his attention to the ceramics of the Far East, on which he became one of the first authorities in Great Britain, especially in the broader cultural aspects of the subject. His "Chinese Pottery and Porcelain" (1915) was followed by a number of volumes of both special and general interest, such as "The Wares of the Ming Dynasty" (1923), "The Art of the Chinese Potter" (1923) and "The Later Ceramic Wares of China" (1925); but his most considerable production was his authoritative "Catalogue of the Eumorfopoulos Collection" (1925-28). He was also the author of the official guide to the collections of Far Eastern pottery in the British Museum (1924). Mr. Hobson became deputy keeper of his Department in 1921, and on its reorganization some years later as the Department of Oriental Antiquities and Ethnography, was appointed keeper. He received the honour of C.B. in 1931.

Prof. R. V. Wheeler

PROF. R. V. WHEELER has been awarded the Melchett Medal for the current year of the Institute of Fuel. Prof. Wheeler will give the Melchett Lecture to the Institute at 3.30 p.m. on October 13, in the meeting room of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storey's Gate, London, S.W.1. Non-members of the Institute who desire to be present at this meeting will be welcome. Prof. Wheeler has been for many years professor of fuel technology in the University of Sheffield. He is also the director of the Safety in Mines Research Board Experimental Stations in Sheffield and Buxton. Born in 1883, he was educated at Plymouth College, Plymouth, and Owens College, Manchester. He is a Dalton scholar and fellow of the University of Manchester. He is the author or joint author of many publications dealing with the constitution of coal, blast furnace coke, coal mining problems, scientific and technical papers on coal combustion and flame, besides being joint editor of *Fuel in Science and Practice*.

Pilgrim Trust Lectures

In the annual report last year of the Royal Society, it was announced that the Pilgrim Trust had agreed to provide 250 guineas a year for six years for an

annual lecture to be arranged jointly by the Royal Society and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and to be delivered alternately in London and Washington. It is now announced that the first Pilgrim Trust Lecture will be delivered in London on December 8, and the Royal Society has selected Dr. Irving Langmuir, a director of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, as lecturer. The second lecture is to be delivered on April 24 of next year, and the National Academy of Sciences, to which falls the task of selecting an Englishman as lecturer, has chosen Sir William Bragg. As Sir William emphasized in referring to the Lectures in his presidential address to the Royal Society last November, they present a unique opportunity for direct interchange of thought by leading men of science of the two countries, and the selection of Sir William to give the first lecture in the United States is both a well deserved compliment and a gesture signifying approval of the views which he has expressed as to the functions of these lectures.

South African Protectorates and Transfer

A DEPUTATION representing the Committee on Applied Anthropology of the Royal Anthropological Institute has been received by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, H.M. Secretary of State for the Dominions, in order to discuss the question of the consultation of native opinion with regard to the transfer of the Territories to the Union Government of South Africa. The deputation was introduced by Lord Onslow, who (as reported in *Man* of July) referred to the difficulty experienced by the Joint Select Committee on Closer Union in East Africa in understanding the point of view of native witnesses who appeared before it. A variety of points was discussed. Both Prof. B. Malinowski and Dr. Margaret Read, who have recently visited the territories, were in a position to emphasize the deep interest taken by the native population in this question. The latter indeed said that the subject was a matter of discussion so far north as Nyasaland, while judging from her own consultations of native opinion, she urged that the traditionally recognized channels for ascertaining the opinion of the tribes should be utilized. This matter was also stressed by the Rev. E. W. Smith, who pointed out that as regards the Basuto a recognized organ for the expression of native opinion existed in the National Council, adding that their land was the matter on which they felt most deeply. Another matter of extreme importance which was mentioned by Dr. Margaret Read was the care that should be taken in the interpretation into native language of terms referring to political institutions. Mr. MacDonald assured the deputation that these points would be kept in mind in putting the issue before native opinion.