

and his three predecessors in office, all men of mark, between them filled it for 132 years, a rather remarkable record.

The second son of Mr. Samuel Wallace, who farmed in a large way in Dumfriesshire, Robert Wallace studied agriculture at the University of Edinburgh under Prof. John Wilson, a notable teacher, whose "Farm Crops" was long a standard work. From the University he returned to his native county to engage in the practice of farming, whence in 1882, at the age of twenty-nine years, he was called to be professor of agriculture at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Three years later he was chosen to succeed Wilson in the Edinburgh chair.

While under such notable teachers as Coventry, Low and Wilson, the agricultural classes at Edinburgh had attracted students from a wide field, there had been up to this time no development of a co-ordinated course in agricultural science. Agricultural students could, and frequently did, take the ordinary classes in chemistry, natural philosophy, botany, natural history and economics; but there were no courses relating these subjects to the practice of agriculture. Wallace, with characteristic energy, set himself to remedy this defect, and the immediate result was the establishment by the University of the B.Sc. degree in agriculture, the first to take the degree being the late Sir William Somerville, afterwards Sibthorpean professor of rural economy in the University of Oxford. At a later stage he was instrumental in obtaining endowments for the establishment of the Steven lectureship in agricultural entomology and of the Garton lectureship in Indian and Colonial agriculture.

The earlier years of the present century were a period of great development in agricultural organization and in agricultural education and research, both in Great Britain and in the Colonies, and the Edinburgh School of Agriculture, first in the field with a comprehensive course in agricultural science of degree standard, was called upon in an extraordinary number of cases to provide men to fill key positions in agricultural departments and in agricultural colleges. One has only to recall such names as Somerville, Middleton, Campbell, Greig, Gordon, Gilchrist, Seton, Milligan and Clouston—to mention a few—to indicate the extent to which the Edinburgh School has influenced agricultural development in the last forty years; and just as no trouble was too great for Wallace to get his former students placed, so nothing gave him more pride and satisfaction than the successes later achieved by them.

Throughout the greater part of the tenure of his chair, Wallace lived under the happy dispensation of the two-term (winter session) academic year, and for many summers he travelled widely to study agriculture under varying climatic conditions. India, Australia, South Africa, Rhodesia, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Egypt, Greece and Italy all came under investigation, and the fruits of his studies gave a refreshing quality to opening lectures and were embodied in many books—for he was an indefatigable and voluminous writer. His best

known book is "Farm Live-Stock of Great Britain", which, first published in 1885, has gone through many editions, and is still a standard work.

A fervid champion of a wide range of causes, Wallace could scarcely avoid achieving a state of variance with quite a number of people, but none who really knew him could fail to appreciate the essential kindness, the rare generosity of the man.

E. SHEARER.

#### Mr. J. O. Borley, O.B.E.

MR. J. O. BORLEY, who died at Bexley, Kent, on December 30, at the age of sixty-six years, had retired only a year or so before from the post of fisheries adviser to the Discovery Committee (Colonial Office), and was still an active member of that Committee. His interest in whaling and antarctic research dated from his membership of the original Falkland Islands Committee, the recommendations of which led to the splendid investigations carried out under the auspices of the Discovery Committee. Borley took a great part in the planning of these investigations and in their administration. His thorough grasp of practical problems and the soundness and sobriety of his judgment were of the greatest assistance in the negotiations which led up to the international regulation of whaling.

The success of his work on the whaling problem was, I think, largely due to his long and intimate experience of fishery research, for up to 1928, when he joined the Colonial Office, Borley's life-work was the investigation of fishery problems. He started his fishery career at Lowestoft in 1903 under the Marine Biological Association, which, at that time, was responsible for the English share of the international fishery investigations. In 1910, when this work was transferred to the Board (later Ministry) of Agriculture and Fisheries, Borley moved to London with his staff, and was associated with Dr. A. T. Masterman in the general direction of the investigations. During the Great War, he rendered valuable services to the Ministry and to the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department in an administrative capacity, which earned him an O.B.E. in 1918. In 1921, after the reorganization of the scientific staff, Borley returned to Lowestoft to take charge of the new Fisheries Laboratory which had been set up there through the energy of Prof. J. Stanley Gardiner.

Borley's own scientific work was concerned mainly with the plaice and the plaice fisheries, on which he became an acknowledged authority of international repute, publishing many papers of great value on this subject. He was an extremely painstaking and thorough worker, and was never content until he could wring out the last drop of information from the elaborate biological and statistical data at his disposal. He took a very keen personal interest in the difficult question of the protection of the plaice fisheries, and worked amazingly hard on the Plaice Committee of the International Council to bring about some effective measure of international control.

It was, I think, a keen disappointment to him that the recommendations of the Plaice Committee of 1921 and of the Plaice Conference at Amsterdam in 1925 could not be put into operation. But he did not lose heart; he supported his staff in working out alternative methods of coping with the overfishing problem, which bore their first fruit in the Sea Fishing Industry Act of 1933.

In addition to his papers on the plaice, Borley published in 1923 an admirable study of the bottom-deposits in the North Sea, and was largely responsible for a special investigation of herring-trawling carried out just before the Great War, on which we reported jointly in 1922.

Borley was a colleague of mine for many years, and no man could wish for a better. He was always helpful, always put the work first and himself second. His great knowledge and experience was always freely at the service of his colleagues. He was a

lovable personality, and inspired both affection and respect in all those associated with him in the work of the Fisheries Department, of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and of the Discovery Committee.

E. S. RUSSELL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. V. A. Karavajev of Kiev, an authority on the taxonomy and bionomics of ants, on January 7, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. J. P. McMurrich, emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of Toronto, on February 9, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. N. V. Nassonov, formerly director of the Zoological Museum of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, on February 10, aged eighty-five years.

## News and Views

### The Linnean Society and National Parks

As a result of the discussion on the objects of national parks held by the Linnean Society of London on December 8 (*NATURE*, 142, 1087; 1938) and subsequent debates, the Society has adopted the following resolution: "The Linnean Society of London accepts the definition employed in the African Fauna Convention as an ideal for the preservation of Nature; but it knows that the term 'National Park' has been given to areas which for various reasons are unsuitable for inclusion within the definition,—e.g. too limited or situated too near populated areas. For such it recommends the setting apart within each Park of special nature reserves under proper control; and it would like all authorities with power over Parks to seek advice from such bodies of naturalists as are competent to give it." The definition given by the African Fauna Convention (H.M. Stationery Office. Treaty Series, No. 27. London, 1933) is as follows: "The expression 'national park' shall denote an area (a) placed under public control, the boundaries of which shall not be altered or any portion be capable of alienation except by the competent legislative authority, (b) set aside for the propagation, protection and preservation of wild animal life and wild vegetation, and for the preservation of objects of æsthetic, geological, prehistoric, historical, archaeological, or other scientific interest for the benefit, advantage, and enjoyment of the general public, (c) in which the hunting, killing or capturing of fauna and the destruction or collection of flora is prohibited except by or under the direction or control of the park authorities. In accordance with the above provisions facilities shall, so far as possible, be given to the general public for observing the fauna and flora in national parks."

### British Dyestuffs: Award of the Perkin Medal

THE Perkin Medal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists has been awarded to Mr. James Baddiley, of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., "in recognition of his national services for the renaissance of the British dyestuffs industry through many important investigations in the field of colour chemistry conducted or directed by him". In the thirty years since its inauguration, the Medal has only been awarded eleven times—four times to Englishmen, three times to Germans, three times to Frenchmen and once to an Alsatian. In an address delivered after the presentation, Mr. Baddiley said that great progress has been made in dyestuffs laboratory technique, such as the use of X-ray diffraction methods for determining molecular structure, optical diffraction in the visible and ultra-violet bands, and cathode-ray refraction. In the dyeing of cotton, substantial advances have been made, particularly with regard to light fastness. In the direct cotton colour field constant research had been given to straight-chain poly-azo dyes with 2-5-7 aminonaphthol-sulphonic acid and its derivatives as end-component, and this line of research had led to the production of the Durazols, which are representative of direct cotton colours of high fastness to light.

THE dyestuffs chemist, affirmed Mr. Baddiley, has shown his ability to meet the problems presented by new artificial fibres very promptly, by producing the Solacets, a series of truly water-soluble dyes, possessing high affinity and building-up properties and capable of being applied as though they were direct cotton dyes. In regard to pigments, Mr. Baddiley mentioned the invention of the phthalocyanines in I.C.I. laboratories; these, he said,