

News and Views

Prof. A. H. Gibson

At a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers on May 2, the James Alfred Ewing Medal was presented to Prof. Arnold Hartley Gibson, professor of engineering in the University of Manchester. This is the second award of the medal, which is presented for specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering. Awards are made by the council of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the recommendation of the presidents of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the Royal Society. Prof. Gibson was educated at Rishworth Grammar School and at the University of Manchester. In 1909 he was appointed professor of engineering of the University of St. Andrews, where he stayed until 1920, except that during the Great War he served in the Royal Field Artillery and was seconded in 1916 to the Royal Aircraft Factory, where he afterwards had charge of the investigation and research work on aero engines. He was president of Section G (Engineering) of the British Association in 1921, and was a member of the Board of Trade Committee on water-power of the British Isles; of the Air Ministry Engine Research Committee; and of the Severn Barrage Committee. He has written a number of papers on hydraulic engineering, including such subjects as experiments with tidal models, the resistance to rotation of disks in water at high speeds, formation of standing waves in an open stream, wave impact on engineering structures, etc., and, among other awards, has received a Crampton Prize and a Telford Premium for papers published by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Sir Frederic Kenyon, G.B.E., K.C.B.

THE anniversary meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of London on April 27 marked the retirement of Sir Frederic G. Kenyon from the office of president, which he had held since 1934, the statutory period of five years. His term of office has covered a period in the history of the Society of enhanced activity in the field—the excavation of Maiden Castle is a permanent landmark in the study of British prehistory—in the promotion of archaeological studies, and in efforts to preserve the antiquarian remains of Great Britain. Sir Frederic's wise leadership and tactful conduct of the Society's affairs have been more than worthy of the great tradition of the long line of his predecessors. His own special interests as an eminent authority on early classical and Biblical texts from papyrological and other sources have in no way been allowed, in the performance of his official duties, to colour, though they may have added inspiration to, his judgment in the broader fields of archaeological research. Sir Frederic Kenyon was director and principal librarian of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) from 1909 until 1930. Since his retirement, he has devoted himself strenuously to the advancement of learning and research by taking part in the ad-

ministration of several learned societies and other bodies, including the British Academy, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. Sir Frederic is succeeded as president of the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. Alfred William Clapham, secretary since 1929, and secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, since 1933. Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler will succeed Mr. Clapham as secretary of the Society.

Prof. Karl von Terzaghi

THE forty-fifth James Forrest Lecture of the Institution of Civil Engineers was delivered on May 2 by Prof. K. von Terzaghi, who took as his subject "Soil Mechanics: A New Chapter in Engineering Science". Prof. von Terzaghi was born at Prague in 1883 and, after attending the Technical University of Graz, was engaged on projects for hydro-electric developments and other construction-projects in Austria, Hungary and Russia until 1912, when he proceeded to the United States and was chiefly engaged in the study of modern dam construction and problems of engineering geology in connexion with the projects of the United States Reclamation Service. During the Great War he served in the Austrian Army until in 1916 he was transferred to the Technical University of Constantinople to take over the chair of foundation and highway engineering. From 1918 until 1925 he was professor and head of the Department of Civil Engineering of the American Robert College in Turkey. During this period, he was engaged on research in connexion with the physical properties of the most important types of soils and published in 1925 his book "Erdbau-mechanik", which is acknowledged as the basis of modern soil mechanics. Between 1925 and 1936, Prof. von Terzaghi was lecturing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Technical University in Vienna, the Technical University in Berlin-Charlottenburg and at Harvard University. He was president of the first International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, which was held at Harvard University in 1936. In addition to his contributions to civil engineering, Prof. von Terzaghi has advanced knowledge in the field of physical chemistry and geology, his best-known work perhaps being his mechanical theory of swelling of gels.

George Miller Beard (1839-1883)

DR. GEORGE BEARD, an eminent American neurologist and psychiatrist, was born at Montville, Connecticut, on May 8, 1839, the son of a Congregationalist minister. He studied medicine at Yale, where he qualified in 1862, and four years later joined the staff of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. In the course of his comparatively