Larmor had a strong attachment to his native country. It is no coincidence that "Aether and Matter" is so largely a development of the work of his countrymen MacCullagh, Hamilton and FitzGerald. It was probably his intense feeling over the Irish question which persuaded him to enter Parliament, where he represented the University of Cambridge as a Unionist from 1911 until 1922. He can scarcely have found the position congenial; and it was clearly not the right field for his abilities. His most important work outside the University was as secretary of the Royal Society from 1901 until 1912. As a University teacher, his lectures were obscure, ill-ordered and difficult to follow; but they were well worth the effort to follow. There are doubtless many who can, like the writer, testify to the inspiration which they imparted.

A. S. EDDINGTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, president of the National Smoke Abatement Society, on May 20.

Prof. A. R. Forsyth, F.R.S., emeritus professor of mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, on June 2, aged eighty-three.

Dr. Emil von Grósz, honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and president of the International Campaign against Tuberculosis, aged seventy-six.

Dr. John Lindsay, professor of physiology and histology at the Glasgow Veterinary College, aged seventy-seven.

Mr. E. Hesketh, a well-known refrigeration engineer, on May 18.

Mr. R. G. McConnell, director of the Geological Survey of Canada and Deputy Minister of Mines during 1914–20, on April 1, aged eighty-five.

NEWS and VIEWS

National Institute for Medical Research

Sir Henry Dale, P.R.S.

SIR HENRY DALE, who retires from the post of director of the National Institute for Medical Research on September 30, has long been the central figure in some of the most active fields of physiological and pharmacological research. During the years 1906–14, he was director of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, where he gathered around him a very brilliant team of workers. He then joined the staff of the newly formed Medical Research Committee, which became the Medical Research Council in 1920. He has been the effective head of the Council's laboratories at the National Institute at Hampstead since they were first opened. Under his leadership these laboratories have become world-famous.

Much of Dale's early work centred around the pharmacological analysis of extracts of ergot, which were found to contain, among other things, ergotoxine, tyramine, histamine and acetylcholine, all of which had interesting properties and all of which served as the origins of broadening advances. With various collaborators he showed that histamine and acetylcholine are both normal constituents of the body of mammals, and he has done more than anyone else to establish the significance of these discoveries. The work which demonstrated the relation between acetylcholine and nerve endings won the Nobel Prize for Physiology in 1936, which he shared with Otto Loewi. Many other fields of work have been illuminated by his clear brain and genius for experiment, which have done great service to British medical research not only through his own work and that of his immediate colleagues, but also through advice and help freely given to a very large number of people. He has mainly been responsible for the success of the League of Nations in establishing international standards for the biological standardization of bacteriological products, hormones and vitamins, and a large proportion of the actual international standards are kept at the National Institute.

Prof. C. R. Harington, F.R.S.

PROF. C. R. HARINGTON, professor of chemical pathology in the University of London, and director of the Graham Research Laboratories at University College Hospital Medical School, who is to succeed Sir Henry Dale as director of the National Institute for Medical Research, became well known through his work on the active principle of the thyroid gland, which he started with Prof. George Barger in Edinburgh and continued in University College, London. Thyroxine had been isolated by E. C. Kendall but not in sufficient quantities for accurate chemical work. With various collaborators Harington devised an improved method of isolation, determined its structure, synthesized it, resolved it into its optical isomers, showed that the natural isomer was lævorotatory, synthesized a number of allied substances some of which had similar pharmacological actions, isolated from the thyroid gland a simple polypeptide which differed from thyroxine in its absorption from the intestine, and showed that di-iodotyrosine was also present in the thyroid. These different aspects of work on a new active principle are generally shared among many different laboratories, and it is remarkable that one man could do so much.

Later, Harington and his colleagues did important work on crystalline insulin and synthesized glutathione. Recently they have been working on the preparation of antibodies which counteract the effects of substances such as thyroxine and aspirin, by combining these comparatively simple substances with proteins and using the compounds thus formed as antigens. Prof. Harington was appointed a member of the Medical Research Council in 1938; he has been editor of the *Biochemical Journal* for some years. His outstanding qualities certainly justify the Council in appointing, as the director of its laboratories, a man who happens to have no medical degree.

Award of James Watt International Medal

THE Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers has unanimously awarded the James Watt International Medal to Mr. A. G. M. Michell, of Melbourne, on the nomination of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the South African Institution of Engineers, and the Engineering Institute of Canada. The Medal was founded by the Institution in 1936 to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of James Watt on January 19, 1736, and is awarded every two years to an engineer of any nationality who is deemed worthy of the highest award that the Institution can bestow and that a mechanical engineer