OBITUARIES

Prof. J. M. Macfarlane

PROF. JOHN MUIRHEAD MACFARLANE, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Pennsylvania, died at his home in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. He was born in Kirkcaldy in 1855, and his work was over more than twenty years ago. One or two old friends still remember him when he and they were boys in Edinburgh, where he learned his botany from "Woody Fibre" and from Alexander Dickson, and became one of Bayley Balfour's first assistants. It was under Balfour's influence that he wrote his once well-known paper on the minute structure of plant hybrids, which remained perhaps his chief work to the end. It was a careful comparison, within the histological limitations of its day, between the tissues of various hybrids and their parents, in such curious cases as the so-called *Philageria* (that is, *Lapageria* × *Philesia*) *Veitchii*, and the famous 'graft-hybrid', *Cytisus Adami*. This investigation led to his first appointment in the University of Pennsylvania in 1892, and gained him the Banksian Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society a little later on. His old master Dickson had been interested in pitcher-plants, and the Edinburgh Garden was rich in these, including the rare little *Cephalotus* and many hybrid *Sarracenia*s and other things. Macfarlane had a note in NATURE on honey-glands in pitcher-plants, nearly sixty years ago. Long afterwards he did the pitcher-plants for various Floras, including those of British North Borneo and of New Guinea, and he wrote the chapters on *Nepenthes*, *Sarracenia* and *Cephalotus* for Engler. He was a very faithful and a very industrious man.

D'ARCY W. THOMPSON.

Capt. R. D. Williams

CAPT. R. D. WILLIAMS, officer in charge of clover breeding and other investigations at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, died very suddenly while on advisory work in Carmarthenshire on October 7. He was fifty-four years of age and had been a member of the Welsh Plant Breeding staff since October 1920. His genetical work on *Trifolium pratense* in particular is well known through papers published in the *Journal of Genetics* and elsewhere, while on the more immediately practical side the Aberystwyth strains *S.123* red clover, *S.100* white clover and others bred by him are already grown and appreciated in Great Britain.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Edwyn Bevan, O.B.E., F.B.A., lecturer in Hellenistic history and literature in King's College, London, during 1922-33, on October 18, aged seventy-three.

Dr. W. H. Hatfield, F.R.S., technical research director of Thomas Firth and John Brown, Ltd., on October 17, aged sixty-one.

Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., formerly master of University College, Oxford, and, during 1911-23, vice-chancellor of the University of Leeds, on October 14, aged eighty-two.

Prof. Pieter Zeeman, For.Mem.R.S., formerly professor of physics in the University of Amsterdam, aged seventy-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

British Drug Houses: Dr. Francis H. Carr

REFERENCE was made in NATURE of October 16 to the resignation of Mr. C. A. Hill as chairman and managing director of British Drug Houses, Ltd. Dr. Francis H. Carr has succeeded him as chairman of the firm. Dr. Carr has had wide experience in the fine chemical industry. He was educated at Whitgift School and Finsbury, where he was one of the first holders of a Salters Company's fellowship. He started his practical experience with Burroughs Wellcome, working with them during 1898-1914. He was with Messrs. Boots at Nottingham during the War of 1914-18 when he took an active part in producing for the first time in England certain chemicals which had hitherto been a foreign monopoly. In 1919 he joined British Drug Houses, Ltd., and has done his full share in bringing that company to its present eminence. Apart from his active business career as a technical chemist, Carr has been a leader in all that concerns the progress of chemistry in the outside world and unsparing in his efforts to put the profession on a high level. He has served as chairman of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers and president of the Society of Chemical Industry, and has been active in innumerable other ways known to his colleagues.

Gift to the Royal College of Surgeons of England

THE destruction of the greater part of the historic Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England by enemy action in May 1941 was a grievous loss of a national treasure house. This loss, however, has been a spur to the College to build up a worthy successor of the old collection. From the first it was determined that its Research Department, engaged in fundamental research work necessary for future surgical progress, should not be hampered in its work. This decision was followed immediately by a generous gift from the Bernard Baron Trustees to endow the chair of experimental surgery and so release general College funds for the reconstruction work. Now, when plans are being made for the restoration of the Museum, comes the news that two further gifts each of £100,000 from Mr. W. H. Collins have been made to endow the Departments of Human and Comparative Pathology and of Human and Comparative Anatomy. One of these gifts, that to the Pathological Department, is to be immediate, the other to mature after the death of the donor.

Mr. Collins in his letter announcing the gift to the president of the College, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, wrote: "Throughout my career I have realized how