

Hall, Walsall, and was educated at Marlborough College and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. After the completion of his medical training he took up practice in the Lobitos oilfields of Peru. When the War of 1914-18 broke out he returned to Great Britain and served as a captain R.A.M.C. in France and Macedonia. After the War he returned to Peru, where he continued his study of snakes and supplied many specimens to the London Zoological Society. His appointment as curator of reptiles enabled him to develop his main interest—the study of snake venom and its application in medical practice. His publications relate mostly to this subject, but he also wrote popular articles on natural history and chapters on herpetology.

In 1938 Barnett proceeded to Rangoon, where a new reptile house was being built, so that he could have the opportunity of establishing a snake farm for the collection of venom and making further studies on its medical applications.

During the present War he was awarded the M.B.E. for bravery in Burma, when, as principal medical officer of the Burma-China railway construction unit, he remained behind with refugees during the evacuation through the Chankan Pass, and gave them medical attention on a long march through uninhabited jungle country. E. HINDLE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. E. Bruce Ball, past-president and honorary life member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and an honorary life member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, known for his work on hydraulic engineering, on June 17, aged seventy-one.

Prof. A. H. Reginald Buller, F.R.S., emeritus professor of botany in the University of Manitoba, on July 3, aged sixty-nine.

Prof. A. E. Conrady, formerly professor of optical design in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, on June 16, aged seventy-eight.

Dr. J. J. Lonsdale, organizing science master at the Sloane School, Chelsea, during 1914-33, an early worker on ionization by splashing, on June 12, aged seventy-one.

Sir Prafulla Chandra Rây, C.I.E., formerly senior professor of chemistry, University College of Science, Calcutta, on June 16, aged eighty-three.

Mr. George Steiger, formerly chief chemist of the U.S. Geological Survey, on April 18, aged seventy-four; and Dr. Roger C. Wells, who succeeded Mr. G. Steiger as chief chemist of the U.S. Geological Survey, on April 19, aged sixty-six.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### University of Reading: Chair of Agriculture

Prof. R. Rae

PROF. ROBERT RAE, who has been professor of agriculture in the University of Reading for the past eleven years, has resigned from academic work on his appointment as agricultural attaché to the British Embassy at Washington. During his tenure of office at Reading, Prof. Rae has expended a large amount of time and energy on the expansion of the Department of Agriculture. This work has been highly appreciated by his colleagues and the many students with whom he has come in contact. The acquisition and development of the University Farm at Sonning-on-Thames was entirely due to his efforts. Before his appointment to Reading, Prof. Rae was professor of agriculture in Queen's University, Belfast, and previous to this he had teaching experience at the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture and the Hertfordshire Farm Institute. Many of his friends regret his departure from the sphere of agricultural education. Since the beginning of the War Prof. Rae has served on several agricultural committees connected with greater food production. More than a year ago he went on a lecture tour to the United States, which proved most successful, and where he is recognized as one of the leading authorities on British agriculture.

Prof. H. G. Sanders

The University of Reading has appointed Dr. H. G. Sanders, fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, as professor of agriculture, from October 1944. Dr. Sanders was educated at Wellingborough School until 1917 and, after serving for two years in the Army, proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, qualifying for the degree of B.A. in 1920. After a period of practical farm work, Dr. Sanders became an

assistant in the Animal Husbandry Institute, School of Agriculture, Cambridge. In the winter terms of the sessions 1926-29 he gave courses of lectures in the University of Reading on animal physiology. In 1932 he was appointed a University lecturer in agriculture at Cambridge. In 1940 he was appointed deputy executive officer of the Cambridgeshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, and in 1941 executive officer to the Hertfordshire War Agricultural Executive Committee. Dr. Sander's researches and publications cover a wide range of agricultural problems in both crop husbandry and animal husbandry. His best-known work is "An Outline of British Crop Husbandry", published in 1939.

### Royal Society of South Africa:

#### Marloth Memorial Medal

THE Council of the Royal Society of South Africa has awarded the Marloth Memorial Medal to Dr. J. L. B. Smith, senior lecturer in chemistry in Rhodes University College, and D. Rivett, for a paper on "The Essential Oils of *Agothosma*". The Marloth Memorial Fund was initiated by the Cape Chemical and Technological Society, and is devoted to the perpetuation of the memory of Dr. Rudolph Marloth, the famous South African chemist and botanist. In 1939 it was handed over to the Royal Society of South Africa for administration. It is awarded in the form of a small payment towards publication of papers of outstanding merit in either chemistry or botany, and a printed medallion heads the paper. The Medal has never been awarded before, but the present paper is considered as of sufficient merit, both from the botanical and from the chemical points of view, to be the first for which this honour is conferred.