of good definition and powerful light-grasp : discovery and measurement of minor planets, comets, variable stars and the preparation of star charts for the southern sky. For many years the responsibility for observing the minor planets which came to opposition in southern declinations rested almost entirely on his shoulders. He discovered several of these elusive objects and computed the first orbits for many of them, as he did in the case of comets. A few days before his retirement he computed the first orbit for the bright comet discovered by Mr. de Kock, using three of his own observations obtained with the Franklin Adams camera on three successive nights. Notwithstanding this short time interval, his orbit proved to be a remarkably close approximation, thus demonstrating his powers as a careful observer and computer.

Though mainly a photographic observer, Wood also took a regular share in visual observing of occultations of stars by the moon, phenomena of Jupiter's satellites, micrometer observations of comets, etc. He was also in charge of the Wiechert seismograph at the Union Observatory over a period of many years, and made a careful study of the earth tremors caused by mining operations on the Witwatersrand.

Wood was a gifted, clear and interesting lecturer ; for some time he gave the lectures on astronomy at the University of the Witwatersrand, which in 1937 conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on him. After his retirement he prepared a series of radio talks on astronomy for the schools.

During the War of 1914–18 he served with the Union Defence Force and took part in the campaign in East Africa. There he contracted malaria, with serious results to his health in later life. Wood married a former Manchester fellow student. His widow survives him ; they had no children.

W. H. VAN DEN BOS

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. B. H. Bentley, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Sheffield, on June 24, aged seventy-three.

Sir George Julius, chairman of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Australia, aged seventy-three.

NEWS and VIEWS

Canadian Honours List

THE following names of scientific workers and others associated with scientific affairs appear in the honours list issued on the occasion of Dominion Day, July 1, in Canada :

C.M.G. : Dr. Alexander T. Cameron, chairman of the Fisheries Research Board, Winnipeg ; Dr. D. B. Finn, deputy minister of fisheries, Ottawa.

C.B.E. : Dr. E. S. Archibald, director of the Experimental Farm Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa ; Prof. C. W. Argue, professor of biology, University of New Brunswick ; Prof. H. C. Bazett, of the Banting and Best Institute, Toronto ; Dr. J. G. Bouchard, assistant deputy minister, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa ; Dr. R. D. Defries, director of the Connaught Laboratories, Toronto ; Mr. A. Hunter, chairman of the Standing Committee on Nutrition, Department of National Defence, Toronto ; Dr. Otto Maass, of the National Research Council, Ottawa ; Mr. J. H. Parkin, of the National Research Council, Ottawa ; Dr. J. M. Swaine, formerly director of Science Service, Department of Agriculture, for services as a member of the Agricultural Supplies Board, Ottawa ; Mr. W. B. Timm, director of the Mines and Geology Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa ; Mr. J. M. Wardle, director of the Surveys and Engineering Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, Rockcliffe, Ontario.

Royal Society of Edinburgh

THE following have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh :

Foreign honorary members : Prof. H. G. Backlund, emeritus professor of geology, University of Uppsala ; Prof. J. Hadamard, formerly professor of mathematics, Collège de France, and l'École Polytechnique, Paris ; Prof. J. H. Hildebrand, professor of chemistry, University of California, Berkeley ; Prof. S. A. S. Krogh, professor of animal physiology, Zoophysiological Laboratory, Copenhagen ; Prof. E. O. Lawrence, professor of physics, University of California, Berkeley ; Prof. E. D. Merrill, professor of botany, Harvard University ; Prof. J. H. F. Umbgrove, professor of geology, Technische Hoogeschool, Delft.

British honorary members : Prof. E. D. Adrian, professor of physiology, University of Cambridge ; Prof. F. T. Brooks, professor of botany, University of Cambridge ; Sir James Chadwick, professor of physics, University of Liverpool ; Prof. P. A. M. Dirac, Lucasian professor of mathematics, University of Cambridge ; Prof. G. H. Hardy, emeritus professor of pure mathematics, University of Cambridge ; Sir George Simpson, formerly director of the Meteorological Office, London.

The Keith Prize (1943–45) was presented at the meeting on July 1 to Dr. W. L. Edge, University of Edinburgh, for his work in geometry, particularly for his papers published in the *Proceedings* of the Society within the period of the award ; and the Neill Prize (1943–45) jointly to J. G. Carr, Institute of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh, for his contributions to our knowledge of tumour viruses in animals ; and to Dr. Ethel D. Currie for her paper on "Growth Stages in some Jurassic Ammonites", published in the *Transactions* of the Society within the period

Romano-British Silver Hoard in Suffolk

A REMARKABLE find of Roman silver plate of a highly elaborate character at Mildenhall, Suffolk, has recently been reported in the Press. The discovery was made by Mr. Sidney Ford, of West Row, Mildenhall, who, while ploughing recently, turned up a circular silver dish which is more than two and a half feet in diameter and weighs some 224 ounces. Further exploration of the ground with a spade brought to light thirty-three more pieces of plate, all of silver and most of them elaborately embossed and ornamented. These include a second large circular dish,

slightly smaller than the first, two smaller dishes, embossed with figures, several ornamented bowls, a pair of standing cups, a large fluted bowl with a pentacle as ornament at its centre, a number of detached handles, spoons, small cups and ladles, and a convex ornamented cover with the figure of a child as handle. The large circular dish is a remarkable piece on æsthetic grounds, apart from its size and weight. It is a characteristic example of Romano-British style of the later period of the Roman occupation, crowded with exuberant figures executed with great technical skill (see *Illus. London News*, June 29). There are many points of interest connected with this find which no doubt will give rise to much discussion in the future. It is possible to mention here only one—that of the dating. It has been suggested that the hoard may have been buried about the end of the third century of our era, that is, about A.D. 300, but a later date by some fifty years seems possible. Apparently this find belongs to that class which consists of household goods of villas buried when in danger from raiders. But according to the evidence of coins from such hoards, this practice did not begin until near the middle of the century and came to an end when in A.D. 367 Romano-British villa life in East Anglia suffered its final blow at the hands of barbarian sea-raiders.

Rayon Technology at Manchester

In accordance with their declared policy of providing financial assistance for the development of technical education in subjects of importance to the British rayon industry, Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., last week announced a gift of £60,000 to the Manchester College of Technology, which is also the Faculty of Technology in the University of Manchester. The money will for the most part be used for completely re-equipping the two Departments of Textile Industries and Textile Chemistry with up-to-date machinery and apparatus for training and research in rayon technology. The gift is particularly opportune because building is about to be resumed on the considerable extensions to the College which were started before the War and in which space had already been earmarked for rayon development, especially in reference to research. These plans can now be brought to fruition much more completely and more quickly than would otherwise have been possible.

The past decade has witnessed a notable increase in the number and variety of man-made fibres available to the textile industries. Of equally great importance, however, are the great strides that have been made in the study of their behaviour and properties, and in the growing appreciation of their independent significance in the textile economy as a whole. This has led, on one hand to the opening up of new fields of application, and on the other to a complete re-consideration of the orthodox sequence of industrial operations by which these materials in their different forms are commonly spun, woven, dyed and finished. The fundamental principles of fibre treatment are for the most part applicable to all textile materials, whatever their origin; but in the application of these principles, so far as the rayons are concerned, there are now in prospect more radical departures from orthodox practice than have been made hitherto. As a result of Messrs. Courtauld's gift, the Manchester College of Technology will be able not only to demonstrate the latest types of machinery and process but also play a much larger part, by experiment and research, in contributing to their further development.

Education in the Royal Air Force

The Air Council has now approved the formation of an Education Branch of the Royal Air Force in place of the civilian Educational Service that has existed hitherto. Education officers will now become part of the Royal Air Force itself, instead of being members of a civilian auxiliary service. The R.A.F. Education Branch, which will consist of commissioned officers only, will be constituted on the same broad lines as other branches of the Royal Air Force. The Branch will be organised on a predominantly short-service basis, provision being made for a percentage of short-service officers to be granted permanent commissions. Vacancies in the permanent cadre will normally be filled from the ranks of short-service officers, but officers with qualifications of outstanding value to the R.A.F. may exceptionally be appointed direct to permanent commissions. The intention is that officers should be appointed to short-service commissions, for a period of five years on the active list followed by four years on the reserve, and that they will enter at an average age of twenty-five in the rank of flying officer, normally after having had some civil teaching experience.

Service in the Education Branch of the Royal Air Force will be recognized by the Ministry of Education for determining the correct incremental position on the Burnham scales of salary of teachers who afterwards enter or return to civilian teaching employment. Further, the period of the short-service engagement of officers of the Education Branch who have been in contributory service under the Teachers (Superannuation) Acts will reckon as contributory service towards any ultimate award of pension under those Acts. It is hoped that it will be possible to make similar provision for short-service officers who were not in contributory service before entering the Branch. Candidates for appointment to the Branch must be in possession of a full degree of a university or an equivalent qualification obtained by examination, and the possession of first- or second-class honours will normally be a requirement for appointment to a permanent commission. A detailed announcement will be made as soon as possible with regard to the conditions of entry to and service in the new Branch, together with information regarding the conditions of assimilation of existing members of the R.A.F. Educational Service.

International Academy of the History of Science

The activities of the International Academy of the History of Science were suspended during the War. Prof. Aldo Mieli, the permanent secretary, is not at present able to leave Buenos Aires, and it has not yet been possible to resume publication of *Archeion*, the journal of the Academy. It has been decided, however, to hold a congress at Lausanne in the summer of 1947. All interested in the subject will be welcome, and the following provisional measures have been taken: J. A. Vollgraff (Roodbortsstraat 17, Leyden, Holland) is acting as secretary-treasurer, and Prof. P. Brunet (Hotel Nêvers, 12 Rue Colbert, Paris 21ème) as archivist and librarian. Prof. Arnold Reymond, of Lausanne, was elected president at the last meeting and will preside at the next. A corrected list of the surviving members of the Academy is being compiled. Each individual member and each national group is urgently requested to send the necessary information either to Prof. Brunet or to M. Vollgraff. Suggestions for the replacement of