

with a report on the ornithological observations, compiled by Dr. von Boetticher, was published as a special supplement of the *Journal für Ornithologie* in 1930. He was a regular attendant of the meetings of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft which were held each year in various parts of Germany and took part in all the ornithological excursions, however arduous. In 1934 he attended the International Ornithological Congress at Oxford, including the visit to the bird islands off the Pembrokeshire coast. His enthusiasm and activity were such that even at the age of seventy-six, in 1937, he was considering the possibility of a trip by aeroplane and motor-car from Cairo to the Cape in order to study the bird-life throughout Africa.

He was a brilliant linguist, and in fact it was difficult to discover how many languages he did know, for he would turn with bewildering speed and facility from French, German, English, Bulgarian to Portuguese. His dominating personality, astuteness as a politician and the unpopular role he took in the destinies of Europe have always been emphasized; but his love of beautiful things, his great generosity

to the cause of science and to his friends, his delightful sense of humour and a surprising simplicity are sides of his character which have generally been missed.

PHYLLIS BARCLAY-SMITH

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Peter A. Bungart, for nearly twenty-five years associated with the Department of Geology and Palæontology of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who was a distinguished collector and preparator of fossil fish, on July 30, aged seventy-two.

Prof. Alexandr Orlov, professor of petrography and chemical mineralogy at the Charles University of Prague, known for work on the origin and occurrence of groups of ore-bearing rocks and soils, the metamorphosis of limestones and dolomites and especially for his petrographic studies of Czech garnet deposits, aged forty-nine.

Prof. D. A. Welsh, emeritus professor of pathology in the University of Sydney, where he held the chair from 1902 until 1936, on May 13, aged eighty-two.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Botany at Cambridge:

Prof. F. T. Brooks, C.B.E., F.R.S.

ON September 30 Prof. F. T. Brooks retired from the professorship of botany in the University of Cambridge, which he has held since 1936. When he succeeded Sir Albert Seward he became head of a large and well-organised department, which continued to expand and prosper under his direction in spite of the difficulties and restrictions of the war years. At the present time, accommodation in the Botany School is strained to its utmost by ever-increasing numbers of research students, and investigations are being made in all the main fields of botanical science, while the number of undergraduate students is well maintained. During his tenure of the chair, Prof. Brooks has continued his researches in plant pathology, and during his career he has been responsible for the training of a large number of mycologists and plant pathologists who now hold important posts in many parts of the world. His wise guidance and administrative ability have been freely extended to the University Botanic Garden; he has acted as chairman of its executive committee and as secretary of the managers of the Cory Trust. His work has extended beyond the University; he was for five years an active member of the Agricultural Research Council and has been one of the general secretaries of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He will continue to live in Cambridge and to carry on his researches in the Botany School.

Prof. G. E. Briggs, F.R.S.

PROF. G. E. BRIGGS will succeed Prof. Brooks as professor of botany. He will be the ninth holder of the chair, which was founded in 1724, and the first plant physiologist to be appointed to it. His researches on photosynthesis and growth have brought him a world-wide reputation as a clever experimenter and a critical and original thinker. A pupil of F. F.

Blackman, he has been head of the Sub-department of Plant Physiology in the Botany School since 1937, and was raised to the rank of professor in 1946. He is a man of wide interests, distinguished as a teacher, and he has had considerable administrative experience in the University and as a fellow and officer of St. John's College.

### Solar Eclipse of November 1: British Expedition to Mombasa

A SMALL expedition from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, under Dr. R. d'E. Atkinson, is proceeding to Mombasa to observe the eclipse of the sun on November 1; the purpose is to try out a method of correcting the moon's place from observations on the thin crescent of the sun seen from a station where the eclipse just fails to be total. Measurements of the position-angle of the line of cusps, as a function of the time, can give corrections to the differential co-ordinates of sun and moon which are independent of any assumption about their apparent radii, and independent also of irradiation if the sky is uniform. If a large number of such measures is made, the effects of irregularities of the moon's limb also cancel out to a considerable extent. In the neighbourhood of Mombasa, where the eclipse is nearly 98 per cent total, the position-angle swings round through about 70° in 2½ minutes; it is hoped to obtain 3,000 timed pictures on 35-mm. film in this interval. The camera will be stationary, and the trail of successive images produced by the sun's diurnal motion will give the zero of position-angles. An ordinary small visual telescope-lens, stopped down to about  $f/40$ , is being used, in conjunction with a green filter and exposure times of 1/1,000 sec. Special time-signals will be sent from Rugby, and these will be recorded, together with the instants of the shutter-openings, on tape-chronographs which have been made at Abinger. The accuracy of the results will be limited by uncertainties about the contour of the moon's limb;