

to his work in the library. During the First World War he was lent first to the National Physical Laboratory and then to the Chemical Warfare Department. He became chief librarian of the Science Library in 1925, with the rank of keeper from 1930. He married Cora Mabel Monnery, who survives him. He leaves no children.

It may well have been Bradford's experience of literature searches during the First World War which led to the activities for which he is remembered. At all events, he proceeded to develop the Science Museum Library as the nucleus of a great central information service, with a vast repository of cards classified by the Universal Decimal Classification. He became persistently active in propaganda for the decimal system, since the scheme would fall to the ground unless an international classification was widely adopted. The British Society for International Bibliography came into being largely through him. National and international meetings were held, culminating in the Oxford gathering of the International Federation for Documentation in 1938.

Meanwhile, one really successful development due to Bradford at South Kensington went on with no need of propaganda. This was the loan system, for after the First World War came the great development of research by industry and government, and this entailed a huge appetite for postal loans. This Dr. Bradford set himself energetically to satisfy. It is indeed ironical to think of the mechanized distributing centre planned from a room which in size and furnishings was one of the all too few survivals of a more spacious and humane conception of library work. It is as seated in this room that his friends will wish to think of him, the brown leather bindings behind the glass, the space bisected by a chemical bench. For Bradford was an active man of science as well as a bibliographer; colloids and the kinetic

theory of liquids being among his subjects. Another of his activities will occur to many who met him: the choice rose so often to be seen in his buttonhole marked him for the very active fancier that he was. Music, also, had been an early interest. But basically he remained one of the older museum and library world, deeply concerned with the details of his profession.

Bradford's literary work included various official catalogues, including "Classification for Works on Pure and Applied Science", second edition, 1921; third edition, 1936; "Hand-list of Short Titles of Current Periodicals in the Science Library", fourth edition, 1926; fifth edition, 1938; "Romance of Roses"; "The Science of Rose Growing"; contributions to scientific and technical journals; papers on the kinetic theory of gases and liquids; the molecular theory of solution; colloid solutions; the formation and structure of jellies; the crystallization of gelatin; the Liesegang phenomenon; the classification and indexing of scientific literature; the principles of classification; the organisation of scientific bibliography; and library cataloguing. His final contribution in this last field was the book "Documentation", which appeared not long before his death.

H. T. PLEDGE

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. J. H. van der Bijl, F.R.S., chancellor of the University of Pretoria, on December 2, aged sixty-one.

Lieut. Oliver Burd, R.N., meteorologist, and Mr. Michael C. Green, general assistant, of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, on November 8.

The Right Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, and president in 1928-29 of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, aged fifty-four.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Industrial Health Research Board

THE following have accepted the invitation of the Medical Research Council to serve as members of the Industrial Health Research Board during the next three years: Sir Frederic Bartlett, professor of experimental psychology, University of Cambridge (*chairman*); Sir Charles Bartlett, managing director, Vauxhall Motors, Ltd.; Prof. R. V. Christie, professor of medicine, University of London; C. R. Dale, Social Insurance Department, Trades Union Congress; Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; Sir Luke Fawcett, general secretary, Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers; Prof. T. Ferguson, professor of public health, University of Glasgow; Sir Claude Gibb, chairman and managing director, C. A. Parsons and Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Prof. A. Bradford Hill, professor of medical statistics, University of London; Prof. Esther M. Killick, professor of physiology, University of London; Prof. R. E. Lane, Nuffield professor of occupational health, University of Manchester; Dr. A. Massey, chief medical officer, Ministry of National Insurance; Dr. E. R. A. Merewether, H.M. senior medical inspector of factories, Ministry of Labour and National Service; Dr. J. M. Rogan, Medical Research Council headquarters staff; Dr. Donald Stewart, chief medical

officer, Austin Motor Co., Ltd.; Mrs. Joan M. Faulkner, Medical Research Council headquarters staff (*secretary*).

The Board is appointed by the Council to advise and assist the latter in that part of its research programme which relates to occupational health. The detailed consideration of research work is in the hands of scientific committees dealing with such subjects as occupational medicine, occupational physiology, occupational psychology, industrial pulmonary diseases, toxicology and statistics. These committees report directly to the Council for purposes of immediate action. The function of the Board itself is that of a reviewing body considering general policy with regard to research over the whole field.

### Esperanto and Science

THE British Esperantist Scientific Association has been founded by a body of British scientific workers and technical experts who are interested in the use of Esperanto as an international medium for the discussion of scientific affairs. Before the War there existed an Internacia Scienca Asocio Esperantista; but this body, like so many others, disintegrated during the last ten years, and is only being reconstituted with some difficulty. 'BESA' (as the new Association is popularly called) is taking an active