

was commenced in 1893 while he was still at school. It is now preserved in the Australian Museum, to which he presented it about fifteen years ago.

Waterhouse took an active part in the Australian societies interested in science in general and natural history in particular, and most of them he served in an executive capacity at some time. The Royal Entomological Society of London conferred on him the unusual distinction of Honorary Life Fellowship. He was honorary entomologist of the Australian Museum from 1919; an elective trustee from 1926 until his resignation in 1947 on account of ill-health; and president of the Board of Trustees in 1930.

For any ordinary man it might be expected that an absorbing interest in Lepidoptera and intense activity in scientific societies would occupy all the leisure time available. But Waterhouse was remarkably active, both physically and mentally, and always had some interests in addition to those mentioned. About 1900 he was interested in the distribution of basic volcanic dykes in the Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone Series in the Sydney district; for many years he collected Mollusca, of which his mother presented a fine collection to the Australian Museum; and he was a keen philatelist. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters; one son was killed on active service in New Guinea during the Second World War.

A. B. WALKOM

NEWS and VIEWS

Civil Engineering at Liverpool:

Prof. R. G. Batson

PROF. R. G. BATSON retires at the end of September from the John William Hughes chair of civil engineering in the University of Liverpool. After leaving King's College, London, he received practical training at Woolwich Arsenal. In 1908 he went to the National Physical Laboratory and was one of a team of five members in the Engineering Department at that time. For some years he carried out research of a mechanical engineering nature, but later became a principal scientific officer on road research and was in charge of the Road Research Board. He was appointed to the chair of civil engineering in the University of Liverpool in 1936, and since that time he has directed the teaching of that branch of engineering in an energetic, enterprising and sympathetic manner. He has introduced new courses of lectures, and his success may be gauged by the readiness with which his students secure satisfactory appointments. During his tenure of the chair, Prof. Batson has been dean of the faculty of engineering for a continuous period of ten years. The holder of a number of awards for original papers, Prof. Batson is also the joint author of a well-known book on "Mechanical Testing" and has recently published a book on "Roads".

Dr. J. B. B. Owen

DR. J. B. B. OWEN, who succeeds Prof. R. G. Batson on October 1 at Liverpool, is thirty-nine years of age and obtained a first-class honours degree in civil engineering in 1931 at University College, Cardiff. He was awarded the Meyricke Scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford, in 1931, where he studied for two years in the Engineering Laboratory and graduated as B.Sc. (Oxford) for research on "Problems of Stress Distribution in Frameworks". He obtained his doctorate (D.Sc.) at Oxford this year. After leaving Oxford in 1933, Dr. Owen was engineering scientific assistant for two years at the British Cotton Industry Research Association, where he was employed on the development of machinery for opening and cleaning cotton, and afterwards for one year in the Design and Stress Office of Messrs. A. V. Roe, Manchester, on the development of autogyros and aeroplanes. Dr. Owen spent twelve years, 1936-48, on the scientific staff of the Royal Aircraft Establishment,

where his main duties consisted of research on aircraft structures and instruction of staff investigating aircraft accidents, airworthiness, and full-scale structural research in flight and landing. Most of Dr. Owen's work while at the Royal Aircraft Establishment has been published as *R.A.E. Reports* or as *Reports and Memoranda* of the Aeronautical Research Committee.

American Geographical Society Awards

THE following awards have been announced by the American Geographical Society: Cullum Geographical Medal, to Dr. H. W. Ahlmann, professor of geography in the University of Stockholm, for inspiring "international cooperation in world-wide glacier study"; Charles P. Daly Medal, to Prof. L. Dudley Stamp, professor of social geography in the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, and adviser on rural land utilization to the Ministry of Agriculture, for "contributing much to the increase of food production in Britain and for a leading part in recent efforts at town and rural planning for optimum use of the land"; David Livingstone Centenary Medal, to Prof. R. L. Pendleton, principal soil technologist, Office of Foreign Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, "as one of the world's leading experts in soil survey and classification".

Air Conditioning and New Lighting at the National Gallery, London

AIR-CONDITIONING plant and modern artificial lighting have recently been installed by the Ministry of Works in a gallery of the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, and the public was admitted on August 21. This installation puts the National Gallery among the most advanced of its kind in Europe. During the Second World War, when the national collections were stored in Manod Quarry in a constant air-conditioned atmosphere (see *Nature*, 151, 123; 1943), the absence of the fluctuations in relative humidity which normally occur in the London climate reduced damage to the pictures by 75 per cent (this damage is more marked for pictures painted on wood rather than canvas). The experience of the War years led to the Weaver Report in 1947, when it was urgently recommended that air-conditioning plant should be built for