called for the appointment of a successor. Actually, no better choice could have been found than John W. Cobb. Appointed thus in 1912, he continued in office until 1938. In two years, however, the First World War broke out, followed by unforeseen problems. The Fuel Department at Leeds, the only one of its kind, had associations with the British gas industry, and the industry was faced with urgent technical problems arising from the War. To meet these needs, it was found necessary to establish a joint research organization between the University and the gas industry. This organization proved successful and led to extension and imitation. There is no doubt that the early success of these efforts owed much to Prof. Cobb's capacity and judgment.

H. J. HODSMAN

Mr. C. E. C. Fischer

THE death occurred on October 19, at the age of seventy-six, of Cecil Ernest Claude Fischer, formerly of the Indian Forest Service.

Born in Bombay on July 9, 1874, Fischer first went to school in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and later to private schools in Brighton and Stratford-on-Avon. In 1892 he entered Coopers Hill College, Englefield Green, where he received his forestry training. He passed out of the College in September 1895 to join the Indian Forest Service in the Madras Presidency. From 1907 he acted as forest entomologist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. During 1908-9 he was on furlough, taking special leave to study plant pathology in Munich and London. During the years 1915-17 he was principal of the Madras Forest College. He assisted the professor of forestry for four university terms at the School of Forestry, Oxford, during 1919-20. After his return to India in 1920, he became a conservator of forests, Madras, which post he held until he left at the end of 1923, finally retiring from the Indian Forest Service in 1926.

Retirement did not mean, however, a life of leisure for Fischer, but merely the dropping of his

official duties in the Indian Forest Service and the commencement of a period of very useful work at Kew. In 1925 he was appointed assistant for India in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, where he remained until he reached the age limit in 1940. While at Kew he brought to a conclusion the late J. S. Gamble's "Flora of the Presidency of Madras", being responsible for the third volume of this work, from *Ulmaceæ* to the *Gramineæ*. Following Gamble's practice, he published explanatory notes during the progress of the "Flora" in the *Kew Bulletin*. He also published a number of other papers in the *Kew Bulletin*, including his important "Contributions to the Flora of Burma" (1926-40), "Plants New to Assam" (1929-40), "New or Little Known Plants from South India" (1932-39), and his determinations of "The Koenig Collection in the Lund Herbarium" (1932). His valuable "Survey of the Flora of the Anaimalai Hills" (1921) and "Flora of the Lushai Hills" (1938) appeared in the *Records of the Botanical Survey of India*. He described many new species, and in naming one of these he commemorated the Indian Forest Service.

Fischer had a strong sense of civic duty and served on many committees. During the War he was an air-raid warden, and while on duty in an air raid was injured and left permanently slightly lame. After the War he taught himself to make Braille books for the blind and became very proficient at this self-imposed task.

No one who knew Fischer could fail to appreciate his sterling integrity of character and the pleasant manner in which he discharged his manifold duties.

H. S. MARSHALL

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. E. Abderhalden, editor of the well-known "Handbuch der biologischen Arbeitsmethoden", on August 5, aged seventy-four.

Sir Leonard Parsons, F.R.S., emeritus professor of pædiatrics and child health in the University of Birmingham, on December 17, aged seventy-one.

NEWS and VIEWS

New Year Honours

THE following names of scientific men and others associated with scientific work appear in the New Year Honours list:

K.B.E.: Mr. Harry Mason Garner, chief scientist, Ministry of Supply; Dr. Arthur Elijah Trueman, chairman, University Grants Committee.

Knights: Dr. Frank Macfarlane Burnet, director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, Melbourne, for services to biological research; Mr. Thomas Dalling, chief veterinary officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Prof. Thomas Henry Havelock, emeritus professor of mathematics, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr. Christopher Hinton, deputy controller of Atomic Energy (Production), Ministry of Supply; Dr. Gordon Morgan Holmes, consulting physician, Charing Cross Hospital and National Hospital for Nervous Diseases; Mr. Henry Thirkill, master of Clare College, Cambridge, and chairman of the Cambridge University Joint Recruiting Board.

C.B.: Mr. E. Barnard, deputy secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Mr. W. R. J. Cook, chief of the Royal Naval Scientific Service, Admiralty; Dr. W. F. P. McLintock, lately director of the Geological Survey and Museum.

C.M.G.: Mr. W. Abbott, H.M. inspector of schools, Ministry of Education; Dr. W. J. Hall, director of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology; Dr. C. F. Hickling, fisheries adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. J. C. Muir, Colonial Agricultural Service, member for agriculture and natural resources, Tanganyika; Mr. H. J. Page, principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; Dr. G. L. Sutton, for services to agriculture in Western Australia.

C.B.E.: Mr. K. Baumann, for services to turbine development; Mr. H. J. Braunholtz, keeper of the Department of Ethnography, British Museum; Mr. S. E. Chisholm, assistant controller, Patent Office; Mr. Hayne Constant, director of the National Gas Turbine Establishment, Ministry of Supply; Dr. Oscar Faber, for services in the rebuilding of the