

affairs of Trinity College, Dublin. In all three he did notable and memorable work.

His reputation as a chemist will probably rest on his work on the inhibition of chemical reactions, on which he contributed a long series of papers to the scientific publications of the Chemical Society, the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Dublin Society, and others. In 1937 he published his book, "The Retardation of Chemical Reactions", which appears to be the first general treatment of this subject that had appeared in any language. It represents the experimental and literary research of more than a decade. Its thoroughness can be judged from the fact that the bibliography alone contains some 1,600 references to original papers. He intended to publish a second edition, and had done most of the preliminary spade-work, but unfortunately his other occupations postponed the fulfilment of this intention, and owing to this occurrence chemical science is undoubtedly the poorer. During the Second World War he assisted the Irish Emergency Research Bureau in its attempt to alleviate the local shortage of certain essential materials. Among other problems, he worked out the details of the production of potassium chlorate, needed for the match industry, from sodium chloride and kelp. This process was eventually developed on a fairly large scale towards the end of the War.

On the classical side, Bailey published two books, the titles being "The Elder Pliny's Chapters on Chemical Subjects", and "Etymological Dictionary of Chemistry and Mineralogy", in the latter of which his wife, Dr. Dorothy Bailey, collaborated. He was also greatly interested in the development and history of chemistry, and wrote several articles on these subjects for various journals.

It might be thought that with his teaching duties as lecturer, and later as professor of physical chemistry, and the quantity of original work he produced, Bailey would have found little time for administrative duties. This, however, is far from true. He held the onerous and rather thankless post of Junior Dean of Trinity College for a period of eleven years, a term of office which has only once been exceeded in length during the history of the College. He was a member of the Board of the College for twenty years, first as a representative of the Junior Fellows, and since 1942 as registrar. During this period he was instrumental in introducing several excellent reforms. It is perhaps a pity, from the scientific point of view, that his duties as registrar very largely curtailed his original chemical research work after 1942, although he continued to lecture in the Chemical School until his retirement, due to ill-health, in October 1950. He did, however, find time to write an interesting and very readable volume entitled "The History of Trinity College Dublin from 1892 to 1945" during his later years.

Of Bailey's personal characteristics one finds it hard to write. He was always the most pleasant and courteous of colleagues, always ready to help in any problem proposed to him. As might be expected from a man of his calibre, he held very definite views on many subjects; but he was never dictatorial in expressing them, and always willing to listen to contrary opinions.

Trinity College, Dublin, may long and truly mourn

"A man so various, that he seem'd to be
Not one but all mankind's epitome".

J. H. J. POOLE

NEWS and VIEWS

Zoology at University College, London :

Prof. D. M. S. Watson, F.R.S.

THE new term has begun at University College, London, without the official attendance of this distinguished zoologist. It was in 1912 that Mr. David Watson joined the College staff after a brilliant student career at the University of Manchester. Already he was the author of papers to which reference is still made. From that date until 1921 he was lecturer in vertebrate palaeontology. He was absent, it is true, during part of the First World War as a lieutenant in the R.N.V.R.; but even there his palaeontology was not forgotten, and he was largely responsible for the design of a pterodactyl type of aircraft that later was to take the air. In 1921 he succeeded Prof. J. P. Hill in the Jodrell chair of zoology and comparative anatomy at University College. There he has created not only a school of zoology, but also has attracted numbers of graduate students in zoology and palaeontology who have themselves gone to chairs of zoology or geology. Some years before the Second World War he had the task of remodelling commercial premises to his departmental purposes in the Malet Place buildings of the College.

During these arduous and fruitful years Prof. Watson has also made opportunities for world-wide travel and for collecting expeditions in which he has visited Canada, the United States, South Africa, the Soviet Union, Scandinavia and Ceylon, and he has visited every site of importance to vertebrate

palaeontology in Great Britain. His many contributions to the study of fossil fishes, on the origin and development of the amphibians, and on many groups of fossil reptiles are too well known to need comment here. These, with his ease and clarity as a lecturer, have made him welcome in many assemblies and conferences. Among his many honours is the Darwin Medal of the Royal Society. Since the War he has been a trustee of the British Museum. Prof. Watson was sixty-five on June 18 and the event was celebrated in his department with a tea-party, when he was presented with an album of photographs and signatures of many of his friends, pupils and admirers from all over the world. His last term of office was clouded by an illness. Happily he has recovered his full vigour and will continue his researches in the familiar surroundings of University College. His friends and colleagues will wish him many happy years of work, and pleasure in his library and his collection of Oriental art. Prof. Watson has been succeeded by Prof. P. B. S. Medawar, Mason professor of zoology in the University of Birmingham (see *Nature*, 160, 14; 1947).

Television in the North of England

THE scheme of the British Broadcasting Corporation for establishing television on a nation-wide basis moved another step forward on October 12, when the North of England station at Holme Moss was opened for public service by Lord Simon of Wythenshawe, chairman of the governors of the