

was also closely associated with the British Association, of which he was a general secretary from 1936 until 1946, and president of Section A in 1936. Other activities were his work as editor of the *Philosophical Magazine* from 1937 to 1948, as a member of the editorial panel of *Endeavour* from its commencement, and as advisory editor of *Nature* during 1939-40.

As a man Ferguson was great both in body and in spirit, abounding in good nature and good humour. He was a voracious reader and a lover of the best books—which enabled him always to be ready in conversation with an apt quotation or reminiscence. He was truly a good companion. But to the writer the most notable thing about him was his fortitude in adversity, to which he fell victim in his later years. The first onset was in 1933, when threatening blindness necessitated an operation for cataract, followed the next year by one for retinal detachment. This impairment of his sight hindered his reading which meant so much to him, yet he was not dismayed. Then in 1942 the malady to which he eventually succumbed began to rob him of his powers of locomotion and speech, and, after his retirement from

Queen Mary College, he became more and more confined to his home. Yet, although an invalid and gradually deteriorating physically, he remained until the very end alert in mind, and managed to continue some of his reading and editorial work. Visits from friends were a source of stimulus and happiness to him; they, on their part, never left him without wondering how so brave a heart could dwell in so feeble a body. His wife Nesta, whom he married in 1919, and who by her loving care did all that was humanly possible to ease his discomforts, survives him; so does their son John. A. O. RANKINE

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Peter Buck, K.C.M.G., emeritus professor of anthropology in Yale University, and director for many years of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Sir Cyril Sankey Fox, during 1939-43 director of the Geological Survey of India, on December 28, aged sixty-four.

NEWS and VIEWS

New Year Honours

THE New Year honours list includes the names of the following scientific workers and others associated with scientific work:

Viscount: Sir John Anderson.

K.C.B.: Dr. Harold P. Himsworth, secretary of the Medical Research Council.

K.B.E.: Acting Air Marshal C. W. Weedon, R.A.F.

Knights: Dr. George V. Allen, vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya; Prof. Leonard Bairstow, chairman of the Aeronautical Research Council; John L. Blake, comptroller-general of the Patent Office; John P. Bowen, lately engineer-in-chief to the Corporation of Trinity House; Dr. Walter Russell Brain, president of the Royal College of Physicians; Prof. Rudolph A. Peters, Whitley professor of biochemistry, University of Oxford; Dr. David R. Pye, lately provost of University College, University of London.

C.B.: R. Rae, director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, Ministry of Agriculture; Major-General Colin Bullard, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

C.M.G.: Walter Adams, secretary of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies; Dr. K. A. Davies, director of the Geological Survey of Uganda; A. de K. Frampton, agricultural adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, West Indies; S. Gillett, lately director of agriculture, Kenya, now chairman and general manager, Overseas Food Corporation, Kongwa, Tanganyika.

C.B.E.: Dr. G. L. Bailey, director of research, British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association; Prof. B. T. P. Barker, emeritus professor of agricultural botany, University of Bristol; R. Boutflour, principal of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester; W. H. B. Buckhurst, director of lands, mines and surveys, Fiji; L. B. Bull, for services to science in Australia; Dr. J. M. Cowan, assistant to the regius keeper of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh; I. H. Cox, lately director of science, Festival

of Britain; Acting Air Commodore C. L. Dannl R.A.F.; V. P. A. Derrick, chief statistician, General Register Office; Dr. A. J. K. Esdaile, for services to librarianship and bibliography; F. St. A. Hartley, keeper, Science Museum; Dr. H. Hartley, chairman of Radiation, Ltd.; Prof. T. P. Hilditch, lately Campbell-Brown professor of industrial chemistry, University of Liverpool; Dr. F. M. Lea, director of the Building Research Station (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), Garston, nr. Watford; A. E. H. Masters, chief scientific officer, Fighting Vehicles Design Establishment, Ministry of Supply; M. H. Neale, lately a member of the Scientific Fishery Research Committees of the Development Commission; M. W. Perrin, lately deputy controller, Atomic Energy Division, Ministry of Supply; Dr. D. Rebbeck, lately deputy chairman, Northern Ireland Festival Committee; N. D. Riley, keeper of entomology, British Museum (Natural History); Instructor Captain R. E. Shaw, R.N.; H. L. Stevens, principal director of equipment, research and development (air), Ministry of Supply; Brigadier R. P. Wheeler, deputy director general and director of field survey, Ordnance Survey Department; T. H. Windibank, director of Crompton Parkinson, Ltd.; Dr. A. Winstanley, deputy chief inspector of mines for special development duties, Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Royal Society Research Professor:

Mr. A. L. Hodgkin, F.R.S.

MR. A. L. HODGKIN, assistant director of research in the Physiological Laboratory, University of Cambridge, who has recently been appointed a Royal Society Research Professor, has already won an international reputation for his work on the biophysics of nervous conduction. His name is associated with the two most striking advances made recently in this field: the definite proof that in a nerve fibre the electric forces at the active region play an essential part in the transmission of the active state; and the discovery that the active surface develops a positive potential with respect to the interior of the fibre.