

NEWS and VIEWS

Geological Society of London: Medals and Awards

THE Council of the Geological Society has made the following awards:

Wollaston Medal: Prof. H. H. Read, for his outstanding contributions to the interpretation of metamorphic rocks and to the problem of the origin of granites, and for his services as president of the International Geological Congress, held in London in 1948.

Murchison Medal: Prof. W. J. Pugh, director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, for his researches on the stratigraphy and tectonics of the Lower Palaeozoic rocks of Wales.

Lyell Medal: Dr. A. K. Wells, for his studies of the igneous rocks of Merioneth and Jersey and for his contributions to the teaching of petrology and stratigraphy.

Wollaston Fund: Mr. C. T. A. Gaster, a distinguished amateur who has done excellent work on the palaeontology and zoning of the Sussex Chalk.

Murchison Fund: Mr. N. L. Falcon, for his geological researches in many parts of the world and in particular for his work on oil exploration in the United Kingdom and on gravitational and magnetic exploration.

Lyell Fund: A moiety to Dr. R. M. C. Eagar, for his work on variation in carboniferous non-marine lamellibranchs, especially of the Lower Coal Measures, and for his stratigraphical studies in Yorkshire and Lancashire; another moiety to Dr. R. B. McConnell for his work as a structural geologist in the Lake District, Switzerland, and rift valleys of Africa.

Zoological Society of London:

Dr. S. A. Neave, C.M.G., O.B.E.

It has recently been announced that Dr. Sheffield A. Neave is retiring from the honorary secretaryship of the Zoological Society of London in April. After a distinguished career at Oxford, both in the academic and athletic fields, Dr. Neave devoted some ten years to entomological research in tropical Africa. During this period he gained a wide knowledge of the entomological problems of the continent and of its wild life. In 1914 he returned to Britain to become the first assistant director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology (now the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology), which had been established the previous year. He was appointed director of the Institute in 1942 and retired in 1946. His outstanding service was the development of the Institute's Publications Office, including the production of the *Review of Applied Entomology*, a journal that is regarded as indispensable by economic entomologists. During 1939-40 he produced, in four volumes, his "Nomenclator Zoologicus", a standard reference work of the greatest importance to every systematic worker in the field of zoology. A fifth volume was published in 1950. For fifteen years (1919-33) Dr. Neave served the Royal Entomological Society of London as secretary, and for the last two years he was president of the Society. He became a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London in 1909, and after serving for several years on the Council was elected honorary secretary in 1942. His outstanding administrative ability and wise counsel coupled with his very wide knowledge of zoology, have had a most valuable and stimulating influence in the entomological field and in the wider field of zoology. His contributions in

the bibliographical sphere represent a major contribution to the advancement of entomological and zoological knowledge.

Viscount Chaplin

VISCOUNT CHAPLIN has been appointed honorary secretary of the Society in succession to Dr. Neave. After the resignation of Dr. Julian Huxley, the Council altered the nature of the secretaryship and made it an honorary office similar to those of the president and treasurer, and Dr. Neave has occupied this position since 1942. Lord Chaplin possesses outstanding qualifications as his successor. He has served on the Council of the Society during 1934-38 and during the past year, and for many years has been one of the most constant benefactors to the menagerie at Regent's Park, his donations including innumerable birds, many new to the collection, and also mammals, reptiles and amphibians. He has had practical experience of keeping various species in captivity, and in a recent publication described the rearing of a pair of bee-eaters rescued as nestlings from a snake in the Camargue. He has contributed various articles on natural history to *Zoo Life* and other publications and at one time was editor of the *Avicultural Magazine*. He has a special interest in sun-birds, humming-birds and tree-frogs, and has recently brought forward evidence in support of the view that European tree-frogs comprise two distinct species, *Hyla meridionalis* and *Hyla arborea*, the latter with two varieties, *H. a. arborea* and *H. a. savignyi*. These he distinguished not only by their markings but also by their song. He accompanied Lord Moyné as naturalist during the voyage of the *Rosaura* to New Guinea in 1936 and wrote the natural history appendix—"Walk-about"—in the account of that cruise. He is a gifted artist, and an exhibition of his paintings of humming-birds was held at Londonderry House in 1933. Apart from his general interest in natural history, Lord Chaplin is an accomplished musician and composer and at one time planned to make this his career. During the War he served as a flying officer in the R.A.F.V.R.

Royal Photographic Society: Progress Medal

THE Council of the Royal Photographic Society has awarded the Society's Progress Medal, its highest award, to Mr. J. Dudley Johnston, in recognition of the invaluable services he has rendered to the Society and to the advancement of photography, particularly in the pictorial field. The award of this Medal is considered each year, but is only made where the Council is satisfied that there is a candidate really deserving of it. The Medal has been awarded forty times, twenty-one recipients being of British nationality and nineteen of other nationalities. Mr. Johnston was made O.B.E. in 1947 for his services as curator and honorary secretary of the Royal Photographic Society. In 1948 he was awarded the Progress Medal of the Photographic Society of America, for "inspiring leadership".

Louis Brennan (1852-1932)

MEN of different nationalities have played a part in the development of the torpedo, which is believed to have been invented around 1805 by the American engineer, Robert Fulton. The first successful automobile torpedo was designed in 1866 by the Scottish engineer, Robert Whitehead, whose mechanical skill revolutionized the original conception of Captain Luppiss, of the Austrian Navy. Louis Brennan,