

was mentioned in dispatches for meritorious technical services and was finally senior radar officer to No. 38 Group, R.A.F. After the War he was appointed to the Department of Civil Aviation in Sydney. He joined the staff of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in August 1947 as a technical officer, and was an active member of the team carrying out flight trials and experiments on radio aids to navigation. He had a first-class knowledge of aircraft radio equipment. He later joined the Rain and Cloud Physics team and for several years worked in partnership with Mr. Styles. Mr. Campbell was married and had two young children.

The death of these two young men is a tragic loss to Australia. Their work in the field of rain physics was just beginning to bear fruit, and their loss means a serious setback to the research in cloud physics which has progressed so well in Australia.

#### Dr. E. H. Hunt

DR. EDMUND HENDERSON HUNT was educated at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a first in physiology under J. B. S. Haldane, and went on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where he added the F.R.C.S. to his M.Ch.(Oxon.). He then accepted the appointment of chief medical officer to

the Nizam's State Railway, Hyderabad, more or less as a temporary measure, but he found his life's work there. Apart from the constant pressure of his medical and surgical work at the Lallaguda Hospital, he developed a large private practice, which took him into all parts of the great city. The wide first-hand knowledge of the country he so gained led him to interest himself in anthropology and archaeology. He was a fellow of long standing of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and published the results of important excavations of the Hyderabad urn-burials, and other papers, including a remarkable contribution on black magic, from the clinical point of view. His incomparable photographs of Ellora and Ajanta were widely known and did much to encourage the growing interest in Indian art. He was, also, a collector of Celadon. On retirement, he became interested in scientific bee-keeping, and was chairman of the Farnham Association and a member of the National Honey Show committee. To these activities must be added the many research activities in India, from geology to archaeology, which would have been impossible without his helping hand. He was a true colleague to any research worker who approached him, a real friend of India, and an unforgettable personality.

K. DE B. CODRINGTON

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Queen Elizabeth College

THE granting of a Royal Charter to Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, marks the beginning of a new phase in the work of what has hitherto been known as King's College of Household and Social Science. Beginning as a department of King's College for Women in 1908, it gradually developed research and teaching in the scientific aspects of household and social work, until in 1920 there was introduced the first degree in these subjects—B.Sc. (Household and Social Science). By 1928, the department became an independent school in the University of London under the title of King's College of Household and Social Science. It played a prominent part in the development of dietetics as a specialized study, and began, in 1933, the first courses leading to a diploma in dietetics. Now, with its Royal Charter and its new name, Queen Elizabeth College (after Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother) is breaking new ground. From October 1953 it will be training men and women undergraduates in the science of nutrition, leading to the new degree of B.Sc. (Nutrition). So far as we know, there is no other university in Britain which gives an undergraduate course for a first degree in this subject. A brief account of this degree and of the new degree of B.Sc. (Household Science) was given in *Nature* of August 9, 1952, p. 226.

### 'Krilium'

IN December 1951 publicity was given to the discovery of a new way of improving soil structure by the use of certain synthetic polyelectrolytes produced by Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd., under the trade name 'Krilium' (see *Nature*, 171, 7; 1953). Other conditioners were afterwards announced by other manufacturers. During 1952 experiments have been made with 'Krilium' by several agricultural research institutes in Britain and by the National Agricultural

Advisory Service under the auspices of the Agricultural Research Council. The substance used was supplied by Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd., as 'Krilium' (CRD. 189) and described as a sodium salt of polyacrylic acid. This was the earliest available soil conditioner and in its original form proved somewhat difficult to incorporate in moist British soils. The results of the 1952 experiments have now been examined. They were not expected to be more than preliminary, and no definite conclusions, therefore, can be drawn at this stage of investigation. The initial findings can be summarized as follows. (1) Improvement in structure after treatment was apparent in many of the soils tested. (2) The uptake by plants of major and minor nutrients was not adversely affected. (3) The activity of soil microorganisms was normal. (4) No conclusive evidence was obtained that the application of 'Krilium' caused any significant increases in crop yields of field or of glasshouse crops, though in certain cases increased yields were recorded. Much more experimental evidence on the best method of incorporation, degree of aggregation and persistence of structure of treated soils, and the relation of these to crop yields is required before any definite conclusion can be reached. Towards the end of the year Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd., made available a new soil conditioner, described as a calcium salt of vinyl acetate-maleic acid copolymer. This was found to be more easily incorporated in soil and is stated to have better soil aggregating properties than CRD. 189. Experiments will be continued in 1953 and the results, when complete, will be published in the usual reports and journals.

### Associate Directorship of the U.S. National Science Foundation

THE new post of associate director of the United States National Science Foundation has been filled