

*Gelehrter*, particularly the encyclopædic knowledge derived from much reading. He had a special love for pictures and a keen appreciation of the fine arts.

He was never a robust man, and during the closing years of his life, when his health deteriorated rapidly, his colleagues were deeply impressed by his fortitude, his complete occupation with the problems in hand and his absolute disregard of his own general frailty. Ellinger is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

W. T. J. MORGAN

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Jules Haag, director of the Institute of Chronometry at Besançon and non-resident member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on February 16, aged seventy.

Dr. T. A. Jaggard, since 1940 research associate in the Hawaii National Park and an authority on volcanology, aged eighty-one.

Prof. Sergius Winogradsky, For.Mem.R.S., the distinguished bacteriologist, on February 24, aged ninety-six.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Physical Chemistry in the Chester Beatty Research Institute, London: Dr. J. A. V. Butler

DR. J. A. V. BUTLER, who has just been appointed to the recently established chair of physical chemistry in the University of London tenable at the Chester Beatty Research Institute (Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital), graduated in 1921 in the University of Birmingham, of which he became D.Sc. in 1927. During 1922-27 he was assistant lecturer in chemistry at the University College of Swansea, and in 1928 was awarded the Meldola Medal of the Institute of Chemistry. Then for the next twelve years he was lecturer in chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, and later spent two years as Rockefeller Research Fellow at the Rockefeller Institute, Princeton, N.J. He played an important part in the early days of the British Commonwealth Scientific Office in Washington, of which he was executive officer during 1942-44. In 1945 he became Courtauld Research Fellow at the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London. Dr. Butler joined the Chester Beatty Research Institute in 1949, from which time he has devoted himself, with his school, to the application of the methods of biophysical chemistry to the problems of growth, the mode of action of ionizing radiations, and the mechanism of interaction of carcinogenic agents with nucleic acid and nucleoprotein.

Prof. Butler has contributed a notable series of papers and other publications to the scientific literature. A specially distinguished essay was his "General Thermodynamical System of Gibbs" (in "A Commentary on the Scientific Writings of J. Willard Gibbs", ed. F. G. Donnan and A. Haas, Yale 1936). A successful general work is his "Man is a Microcosm" (1950), and Prof. Butler has more recently acted as editor of "Electrical Phenomena at Interfaces" (1951), and (with Prof. J. T. Randall) of the important series "Progress in Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry". His interest in the application of physical chemistry to biological problems is a new and significant development which the establishment of this new chair is intended to encourage and extend.

### William Froude Memorial Fund

FOLLOWING a suggestion made at the Sixth International Conference of Tank Superintendents, held in Washington, D.C., during 1951, the Council of the Institution of Naval Architects has been considering a proposal to commemorate the pioneer work of William Froude, F.R.S. (1810-79), a pioneer in ship model research and naval architecture generally. His

main work was carried out for the Admiralty, and in 1872 he undertook the building of an experimental tank for ship research at a site near Torquay, Devon, this being the first tank of its kind in the world. It has been decided that the memorial should consist of two parts: the erection of a bronze plaque at a suitable point (in a country lane) nearest to the site of the experimental tank; and the publication of a volume containing all Froude's published technical papers. The total sum for this is estimated at £2,500, and subscriptions to the memorial fund are invited. It is understood that about half the proposed sum has already been promised. Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, Institution of Naval Architects, 10 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1, from whom all further information can be obtained.

### Finances of Research Associations

A DEBATE was held on March 3 in the House of Commons on the Draft Cotton Industry Development Council (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1953, the chief purpose of which is to increase from £300,000 a year to £450,000 the maximum amount of the levy which the Cotton Board can, with the approval of the Board of Trade, impose, and during the course of the debate numerous tributes were paid to the work and achievements of the Cotton Industry Research Association. The Order will make it possible for the Cotton Board to increase by the amount of the additional levy its contribution to the British Cotton Industry Research Association (Shirley Institute) for the promotion of research, and the Order received warm support from all sides of the House. Nevertheless, and in spite of general recognition that the work of this and of other research associations is already seriously embarrassed by rising costs, the debate was marked by general concern for more information regarding the actual expenditure on research of the research associations and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Some of the questions in the minds of members, such as the possibility of effective development, of overlapping in technical research and of proper liaison between different research associations concerned with natural and synthetic fibres, could not be raised under the terms of the debate. It was clear that members wished to be satisfied that the considerable sums of money concerned are, in fact, being wisely expended and without waste. The debate, in fact, testified to the value of more independent scrutinies of the work of the research associations such as has already been conducted for the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association.