

branch in Kamchatka. He also studied the volcanic rocks of Armenia and Manchuria. From 1945, in collaboration with L. G. Kvasha, he began the reorganization of the extensive meteorite collections of the Soviet Union. He also published a number of papers dealing with minerals, microscopical methods and apparatus. In addition to several text-books, Zavaritzky published two important books dealing with the physico-chemical principles of the formation of igneous rocks (1926) and the petrochemistry of igneous rocks (1944). A general account of his scientific work has already appeared in *Nature* (157, 378; 1946), and a number of his works have been abstracted (*Min. Abstr. Min. Mag.*). A summary of recent work on the volcanoes of Kamchatka has been published in the *Bulletin Volcanologique* (Ser. 2, 8, 87; 1949).

In 1939 Zavaritzky was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences and moved to Moscow, where he occupied a number of important scientific posts, combining administration, research, editorship and teaching. All his published work is characterized by a remarkable thoroughness and by lucidity of exposition. He was a first-class petrologist and an outstanding specialist on ore deposits. As a teacher, research worker and organizer, Zavaritzky will long be remembered in the U.S.S.R. and his death lamented by his numerous friends, colleagues and pupils.

S. I. TOMKIEFF

Dr. J. A. Hewitt

THE death on March 10 of Dr. James Arthur Hewitt robs preclinical circles in the University of London of a figure well known for more than thirty years. He was born in 1889, and after being at Glasgow High School and Hutcheson's Grammar School, he took a B.Sc. in St. Andrews in 1911, with special honours in chemistry, natural history and physiology. He became assistant to Prof. P. T.

Herring and later senior assistant, acting as head during the prolonged absence of the professor.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, he joined the Royal Artillery, in which he had a very varied career, being attached at first to the Royal Flying Corps. Later he became a staff officer, Southern Command, specially concerned with anti-gas warfare. He was himself seriously gassed earlier, a fact which led to much subsequent ill-health.

On his return from service, Hewitt joined Prof. W. D. Halliburton at King's College, University of London, and collaborated with him in the first production of *Physiological Abstracts*, a landmark in medical literature. At first, he was a biochemist, obtaining his D.Sc. for researches in carbohydrate metabolism, but he was so extremely versatile that he was able at a later date to take over the teaching of histology from the late Dr. Da Fano. As a teacher he was superb, and he picked up new material easily. At one time, he even gave a course of advanced lectures on the nervous system before the work of Sherrington was so generally appreciated. His election to the chairmanship of the Board of Physiology of the University of London was eloquent of the appreciation of his personal qualities. This was the first time a non-medical man had been elected. He was elected F.R.S.E. in 1947.

He became increasingly popular with young people. While evacuated to Birmingham during 1941, he became a squadron-leader in the A.T.C., and on leaving was given a complimentary dinner. Many will remember, too, his enthusiasm for motor-cars, especially old crocks which he loved to take to pieces and get into working order. Only two years ago he took part in an important rally.

Hewitt will be remembered by his kindly way with students. As adviser to medical students at King's College, he was ever zealous in their interests, and many owe their careers to his insistence with difficult authorities. We all regret his passing.

R. J. S. McDOWALL

NEWS and VIEWS

Presidency of the Royal Aeronautical Society :

Sir William Farren, C.B., F.R.S.

SIR WILLIAM FARREN has been elected president of the Royal Aeronautical Society for the year 1953-54 and will take office at the annual general meeting of the Society to be held on May 7. Sir William was born in Cambridge in 1892 and was educated there at the Perse School and afterwards in the University at Trinity College. After a short spell as an electrical engineer, he joined the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough in 1915 and was in charge of the experimental and design aspects of aerodynamics there until the end of the First World War. From 1920 until 1937 he worked in university circles, being a lecturer at various times in engineering, aerodynamics and aircraft structures at Cambridge and at the Royal College of Science, London. Sir William then abandoned academic work and became deputy director of scientific research at the Air Ministry, rising to the post of director of technical development at the Ministry of Aircraft Production in 1940. The succeeding year he returned to Farnborough as director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and the five and a half years during which he held this post (in which he incidentally found the time to take-up

active flying again) were marked by a great increase in the staff, buildings, equipment and general activity in the Establishment. After the War, it was fitting that Sir William should decide to employ his energies in the aircraft industry, and since 1947 he has been technical director of A. V. Roe and Co., Ltd. His many achievements were acknowledged by his election to the Royal Society in 1945 and by a knighthood last year.

Royal Geographical Society : Awards

THE Queen has approved the award by the Royal Geographical Society of Royal Medals as follows: *Founder's Medal*, Mr. P. D. Baird, director of the Montreal office of the Arctic Institute of North America, for explorations in the Canadian Arctic; *Patron's Medal*, Count Eigil Knuth, leader of the Danish Expedition to Peary Land in 1948-50, for explorations in northern Greenland and for contributions to Eskimo archaeology.

The Council of the Society has made the following awards: *Victoria Medal*, Sir John Myres, emeritus professor of ancient history in the University of Oxford, for contributions to the geographical history of Greek lands and for his services to the development