

ornament, yet the work of predominantly non-negroid people. This presented unresolved archaeological difficulties of interpretation and date manifest in the ensuing publication, "Mapungubwe: Ancient Bantu Civilization on the Limpopo".

Continued research was obviously imperative. General Smuts in a London meeting urged my acceptance of the task; but my reply was to the effect that, on Zimbabwe experience, I preferred passionless archaeology. South Africa, I felt, should be encouraged to produce its own excavators. The choice fell on Guy Gardner, who devoted unreservedly his time and energies to six seasons of arduous work, with only occasional European help. Were it not for his letters home, and for his published presidential address to the South African Archaeological Society in 1958, and articles in the *South African Archaeological Bulletin*, little would be known of his results or his opinions upon them; and even so, obscurities abound for lack of detail. In bare outline we know

of his examination of cemeteries and deeply piled middens at the foot of a kopje named Bambandyanalo adjacent to Mapungubwe Hill. The culture, characterized by fine pottery and unusual burial ceremonials, is not that of Jones's and Schofield's people on Mapungubwe, though both populations fall into the Boskopoid-Bush category of South African anatomists, which Gardner terms 'Proto-Hottentot'. His excavations, when published, will have the great advantage over the earlier ones in that carbon-14 samples will introduce fixed dates (within their own wide margins of uncertainty) both for the 'gold users' of the Hill and for the less opulent but more interesting people of Bambandyanalo, who may be at least a thousand years old.

Guy Gardner's meticulous methods of excavation and record, graphic as well as verbal, are a guarantee that a mine of hitherto unknown information awaits impatient readers of his *magnum opus* to be.

G. CATON THOMPSON

NEWS and VIEWS

Physiology at Bedford College, London:

Prof. Margaret Murray

THE retirement of Prof. Margaret Murray from the chair of physiology at Bedford College prematurely because of ill-health is a great misfortune to many. She has been associated with Bedford College for forty-two years, as a student when she gained first-class honours in physiology and as demonstrator and as lecturer in biochemistry until in 1947 when she became professor and head of the Department. More than anyone else she has been responsible for the steady progress of physiology for science students in London, and the University owes her much for her services. She has been not only a member of the Boards of Studies in Physiology, and of Biochemistry, but also served on the Board of the Faculty of Science and on innumerable special committees, to which she always gave most conscientious attention. She was chairman of the Special Advisory Board on Dietetics, Nutrition and Household Service for many years and was a member of the Committees of the Medical Research Council on Dental Diseases and on Goitre. She has been a member of the Committees of the Physiological and Biochemical Societies and on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Physiology*. Her opinions, if sometimes dogmatic, were clear, unafraid, to the point and always respected. Prof. Murray has a wide field of interest on the biochemical side of physiology. Her researches have earned her a high reputation in the scientific world, for her painstaking accuracy is known to all. Her intercollegiate classes on "Blood" were a model of what such classes should be, involving as they did an enormous amount of preparation. In later years she has taken a special interest in the prevention of dental decay by fluorine and its possible hazards, and in the prevention of goitre in hot countries by the use of sodium iodate. In 1937 she was awarded the D.Sc. of the University and now she has been granted the title of professor emeritus.

Prof. W. F. Widdas

DR. W. F. WIDDAS, reader in physiology in King's College, London, has been appointed to succeed Prof.

Murray. He qualified in medicine in Durham in 1938 and after a short time in practice volunteered for the Royal Army Medical Corps. He served with the British Expeditionary Force until Dunkirk and later held staff appointments at Northern Command and at the War Office with the rank of major. In 1947 he joined the staff of Prof. A. St. G. J. Mc. Huggett at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, where he worked with a team on foetal physiology and rapidly became senior lecturer. Dr. Widdas's special interest has been the physico-chemical aspect of physiology, with special reference to the transfer of substances across animal membranes, and he has made notable contributions in this field. He was awarded the Ph.D. (London) in 1953 for a study of the kinetics of glucose transfer into the red cells of adult and foetal animals, and in 1958 the D.Sc. for his further researches. In 1955 he moved to King's College, where he became reader in 1956. There he has not only been a very active teacher of large classes of medical and science students but has also conducted a very popular intercollegiate course in cell permeability for the B.Sc. (special). He has continued his studies on the red cell and by a most novel method extended his work to cardiac muscle, which he has shown loses water during contraction. It is of interest that Dr. Widdas is the twelfth member of the staff of the Department of Physiology of King's College to become a professor in recent years.

Scientific Department of the National Gallery:

Mr. F. I. G. Rawlins, C.B.E.

MR. F. I. G. RAWLINS, scientific adviser and deputy keeper at the National Gallery, will retire at the end of March after twenty-five years service. After graduating at Cambridge (Trinity College) and research at the University of Marburg, he held a number of posts at Cambridge where he was also engaged in research in infra-red spectroscopy. He was the first vice-president and secretary-general of the International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects, and is technical director of the Central Council for the Care of Churches and a member of the Cathedrals Advisory Committee. He was