Mr. J. P. Mills, C.S.I., C.I.E.

JAMES PHILIP MILLS, who died at his home in Sydling St. Nicholas, Dorchester, on May 12, was born in 1890. He was the son of James Edward Mills, was educated at Winchester and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1913. He was allotted to Assam, and in 1916 was posted to the Naga Hills, where he occupied himself at once on an ornithological survey of the district for the Bombay Natural History Society, but was soon caught up in the ethnographical work which constituted his major contribution to science. His monograph on "The Lhota Nagas" was published in 1922, and "The Ao Nagas" followed in 1927. After an absence on leave and a term as deputy commissioner of Cachar (whence he once wrote to me apropos of some controversy with a difficult planter, that he was contemplating a monograph on "Scotsmen and Other Hill Tribes of Cachar"), he returned to the Naga Hills as deputy commissioner, and "The Rengma Nagas" followed ultimately in 1937. Meanwhile, he had been appointed honorary director of ethnography for Assam (1930), and in 1943 he was appointed Advisor to the Governor of Assam for Tribal Areas and States, a post which enabled him to gain a very considerable knowledge of the hill tribes on both frontiers of the province as well as to make practical use of his anthropological knowledge and experience. Before this period he had been lent to the Bengal

Government to recommend on the administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and after touring there for two months, during which he covered some five hundred miles mostly on foot, he submitted a most discerning analysis of what was wrong with the existing condition of affairs and what was needed to improve the administration there.

Mills was made C.I.E. in 1941 and C.S.I. in 1947, in which year he retired. In 1948 he was appointed reader in the School of Oriental and African Studies, from which he retired in 1955. The bibliography of the ethnology of Assam which he compiled during this period has never been separately published though used by other bibliographers. In 1942 he was awarded the Rivers Memorial Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute for his ethnographical work in the Naga Hills, and during 1951-53 he was the president of that society.

Mills made an admirable colleague in administration. Though not of very robust constitution he never spared himself, and was always ready to go anywhere and tackle anything; and his unflinching fund of humour and tolerant good temper endeared him to all who came into contact with him, even the wrongdoers who suffered at his hands. In Assam it is perhaps his many friends in the Ao Naga tribe who will most regret the news of his death.

He married in 1930 Pamela Moira, daughter of J. Foster Vesey-FitzGerald, who with two daughters survives him.

J. H. HUTTON

NEWS and VIEWS

Mechanical Engineering at Manchester :

Prof. H. Wright Baker

PROF. H. WRIGHT BAKER, head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Manchester College of Science and Technology, will retire this summer. Prof. Wright Baker was educated at Liverpool College and in the Engineering Department of the Faculty of Science, University of Manchester. After obtaining his first degree, he joined the War Victims Relief Committee and for four years was head of its transport department. He afterwards went back to his University Department as an assistant lecturer, being later promoted to lecturer and senior lecturer under the late Prof. A. H. Gibson. For his extensive researches into piston temperatures in internal combustion engines, he was awarded the D.Sc. degree. Prof. Baker was appointed to his present chair in 1939. During the War, the size of his Department grew steadily to cater for the training of Service personnel as well as of undergraduates. His Department continued to grow after the War to its present large size in accordance with national requirements; and its range of research and teaching activities broadened. During the past decade his interests have been directed towards developing workshop technology as a subject worthy of academic attention. Metrology was singled out as his particular interest, and under his ægis the Royce Laboratory was created and stands as one of the finest of its kind in Britain. Prof. Baker's interest in machine tools has led to special emphasis being placed on teaching and research in production engineering. He is a founder member of the International College of Production Engineering Research. Prof. Baker's publications consist of papers and books

on thermodynamics, metrology and education. He has successfully pioneered a 'clearing house' system for students seeking university places in engineering, and his opening of the Bronze Dead Sea Scrolls—a matter of courage and considerable technical skill—is one for which he will long be remembered.

Prof. W. Johnson

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON has been appointed to the chair in mechanical engineering in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Manchester, as from August 1960. Mr. Johnson was educated at the Central Grammar School for Boys and later at the College of Technology (as it then was) in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Manchester. After graduating in mechanical engineering in 1943, and having become an undergraduate in that Department a year after Prof. H. Wright Baker became the head, Mr. Johnson joined the Army and was afterwards commissioned in the R.E.M.E. He served until late 1947 in various workshops at home and abroad, joining the Home Civil Service as an assistant principal in 1948. Also in 1948 he took an external degree of the University of London in mathematics. In 1950, Mr. Johnson became lecturer in engineering at what was then the Northampton Polytechnic, London, and in 1952 he moved to the University of Sheffield, where he became interested in the theory of plasticity, especially as applied to the forming processes. The results of his researches appeared in a number of reports to the British Iron and Steel Research Association. Mr. Johnson was secretary of the Yorkshire Branch of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers between 1953 and 1956, in which year he was appointed