him, one son having been killed in the First World War.

He was keen on any natural science subject which he took up: chemistry, botany, spiders and, above all, ornithology. He loved birds from boyhood, and he was very familiar with the habits and songs of Indian birds.

Mr. Osmaston's life in the jungle inevitably brought a large share of excitement and adventure in the form of encounters with dangerous wild animals, but one of the most exciting occurred within three months of his arrival in India, and is well worth recording again. He was posted to the district of Jaunsar in the hills, where there had been a man-eating tigress taking a toll of human life for ten years. Mr. Osmaston, then aged twenty-one, and a forest student named Mr. Hansard, decided to try to stalk the tigress in the heat of the day, when, they felt sure, she would be lying up in some secluded place. They went cautiously down a steep ravine which was covered with thick scrub, one of them on each side of the steep banks bordering the small stream. They had not been going for more than five minutes when Mr. Osmaston heard a scuffle and a terrible noise of growling, mixed with cries and groans above him. The tigress had stalked the stalkers, and had pounced on Mr. Hansard from behind. Mr. Osmaston, who had never before seen a tiger outside a zoo, had to risk a shot at the tigress while she was mauling Mr. Hansard. The shot made the tigress let go her hold, and the second barrel discharged at her as she came headlong down the bank towards him finished her off. Mr. Hansard's life was saved, though he had been badly mauled, and the scourge of the countryside was dead. Mr. Osmaston had achieved what many a famous hunter had tried to do during the previous ten years.

His adventures included an encounter on foot with the rogue elephant which had caused the death of Mrs. Anson; an exciting escape from drowning when shooting some rapids in a canoe; navigating a small launch by compass and map without previous experience, in order to find a certain uninhabited island in the Andamans which was reputed to be the only habitat of some very rare hornbills. This adventure included the onset of a storm resulting in the loss of the landing boat while the party was ashore, which necessitated a dangerous swim in rough water infested with sharks, back to the launch, which was anchored in deeper water.

These few incidents serve to show Mr. Osmaston's adventurous spirit. He was abstemious and thrifty all his life, and his disregard for personal comfort and safety took him to many strange and interesting places, and he had very wide knowledge of all things to do with life in the jungle.

After retirement he participated in two strenuous expeditions in pursuit of further knowledge about birds, the first to Ladakh at very high altitudes, and the second in Africa. Both these expeditions were undertaken in the company of his good friend Admiral Lynes, another keen ornithologist.

By his death, at the age of ninety-three, the world has lost a very courteous, charming and adventurous personality.

Dr. T. P. Colclough, C.B.E.

TOM COLCLOUGH, as he was known to ferrous metallurgists, who died on September 22, aged seventy-six, was one of those rare personalities who

commanded respect in both industry and research. He was educated at the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield, and awarded the D.Sc. of Manchester and the D.Met. at Sheffield. He entered the Brown-Firth Research Laboratories in 1916 under W. H. Hatfield and in 1920 became chief chemist at Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. He was appointed in turn chief metallurgist, open-hearth manager and technical officer. In 1929 he became technical director of H. A. Brassert and Co. and was directly concerned with subsequent developments at Corby, Ebbw Vale and other steel works. His capacity for sensing the direction of developments in iron and steel contributed to an international reputation covering Germany, Austria, Turkey, China and New Zealand.

During the Second World War he was technical adviser to the Iron and Steel Control of the Ministry of Supply, and was appointed C.B.E. for his services in 1947. In 1945 he continued in this field as technical adviser to the British Iron and Steel Federation, which post he held at the time of his death. His post-war travel ranged from work with the Control Commission in Germany at the end of the War, to advise the Durgapur works in India and the R.I.S.C.O. works in Southern Rhodesia. He was the leader of British Iron and Steel Federation missions to the U.S.S.R., Poland and Yugoslavia.

Research was not forgotten amid this industrial activity, for he participated in the work of the British Iron and Steel Research Association, and from 1950 served as a member of its Council. He was awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1954, and elected an honorary vice-president of that Institute in May 1960.

Until recently he delivered an annual lecture in the Department of Metallurgy at Manchester, which was always received with eager concentration by the students. He had the power to hold the attention and stimulate his audience which scarcely changed with advancing years. In these days of specialization, his combination of forward thinking with the necessary restrictions of practice was as welcome as it was unusual.

C. R. TOTTLE

Dr. E. McKenzie-Taylor, C.I.E., M.B.E.

DR. E. MCKENZIE-TAYLOR died at his home at Basildon on October 17. He was a North-country man and received his early training at Armstrong College, Newcastle upon Tyne, before the First World War; for a short time he was a demonstrator in agricultural chemistry there. His first appointment elsewhere was as lecturer in agricultural science at the Harper Adams Agricultural College. From there he moved to the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture at Chelmsford, where he became head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, and as such was concerned primarily with analytical work connected with agricultural problems.

After service in the Royal Artillery during the First World War, he returned to Chelmsford until 1921, when he was appointed senior chemist to the Cotton Research Board of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. Here, with A. C. Burns, he carried out important work on the daily and seasonal changes in soil temperature and on other factors influencing the yield of cotton. In particular, they investigated the steady decrease which had been experienced in the yield of cotton in Egypt during the previous quarter

of a century, under intensive irrigation by free flow from the Nile.

McKenzie-Taylor returned to Great Britain in 1926 and was appointed University lecturer in agricultural chemistry in the School of Agriculture at Cambridge, a post which he held until 1930. In that year he became director of irrigation research and land reclamation in the Panjab. Here again he applied his active mind to the soil problems connected with irrigation. With his colleagues he was concerned to elucidate the mechanism of increasing salinity of the

surface soil in irrigation areas, the possibility of the influence of a rising water-table on it, the difficulties of removing the accumulating salts, and the significance, in connexion with 'water duties', of using extra water to leach them out.

During the Second World War, McKenzie-Taylor became director of military engineering research, G.H.Q., India, where he held the rank of brigadier. After returning to England on retirement, he had, since 1952, acted as agronomist to Rotary Hoes, Ltd.

H. H. NICHOLSON

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society Awards: Royal Medals

H.M. THE QUEEN has approved recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for 1961 as follows: to Sir Wilfrid Le Gros Clark, Dr. Lee's professor of anatomy in the University of Oxford, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to neuroanatomy and primate morphology, which he has combined to provide new knowledge of human evolution; to Prof. C. F. Powell, Melville Wills professor of physics in the University of Bristol, in recognition of his pioneering work on the development of photographic emulsion technique in the investigation of cosmic rays and the outstanding results derived therefrom on the elementary particles in cosmic radiation.

Experimental Physics in the University of Sussex: Prof. K. F. Smith

DR. K. F. SMITH, at present lecturer in the Cavendish Laboratory, Physics Department, University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of experimental physics in the new University of Sussex at Brighton. Prof. Smith was born in 1923 and went to Colfe's Grammar School at Lewisham (London). In 1942 he went to Cambridge with a minor scholarship to Sidney Sussex College. His studies were interrupted in 1945 by work on atomic energy, first in Canada and then at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. In 1948 he returned to Cambridge and began to build an apparatus for measuring nuclear spins, using the molecular-beam method, developed by O. Stern and further by I. I. Rabi, but not previously used in Great Britain. He aimed in particular at the study of unstable, that is, radioactive nuclei, of which only very minute quantities can be obtained. In subsequent years he and his students developed various ingenious ways of recording the faint trickle of atoms that pass through the severe scrutiny of narrow slits, two inhomogeneous magnetic fields and a radio frequency field which causes the spin of the atom to change direction. Research Fellow of Sidney Sussex College since 1950, Senior Exhibitioner in 1952, Dr. Smith became a demonstrator in the University of Cambridge in 1953, and lecturer in 1958. He spent a year's sabbatical leave in 1958 as an associate professor at Berkeley, California. He will be followed to Brighton by the good wishes of the molecular-beam fraternity everywhere.

Iodine-131 in Milk in Britain

RESULTS are now available for measurements, made by the Agricultural Research Council Radiobiological Laboratory, of iodine-131 in milk during

the week ending November 11. The method of sampling was the same as that already described (see *Nature*, November 11, p. 504). Milk is collected daily from 23 sites in different parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition, on one day in each week country wide samples are provided by more than 200 depots which together handle more than 40 per cent of the total milk produced throughout the United Kingdom. The mean results of the daily samples are shown in Table 1.

Week	$\mu\text{c. Iodine-131/litre}$
October 15-21	114
October 22-28	168
October 29-November 4	127
November 4-11	117

The survey of iodine-131 in milk throughout the United Kingdom has been in progress for 8 weeks and an analysis of the combined results of the daily and country-wide sampling now enables the overall situation to be assessed in terms of the recommendations made by the Medical Research Council. It was stated that the acceptable radiation dose would not be exceeded for infants under one year of age, the most susceptible age group of the population, unless the average concentration of iodine-131 in milk rose above 130 $\mu\text{c./litre}$ over a period of one year, or higher concentrations were maintained for correspondingly shorter periods. This recommendation took into account the likely extent of variations in the contamination of local milk supplies. The significance of the quantity of iodine-131 which has so far entered milk can thus be assessed by comparing it with that which would give rise to the annual average specified by the Medical Research Council. Table 2 shows that in different regions of the country, between 9 and 20 per cent of the specified annual total had been reached on November 11, the country-wide average being 14 per cent.

Table 2. SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF DAILY AND COUNTRY-WIDE SAMPLING OF MILK FOR IODINE-131 DURING EIGHT WEEKS, SEPTEMBER 16-NOVEMBER 11

Zone	Average contamination ($\mu\text{c./litre}$)	Percentage of quantity which would give rise to annual average specified by the Medical Research Council
1. Northern England	103	12
2. North-West England	98	12
3. East and East Midland	72	9
4. West Midland	106	13
5. Wales	165	20
6. South and South-East England	94	11
7. Mid-Western England	100	12
8. Far-Western England	133	16
9. Scotland	157	19
10. Northern Ireland	164	19
Country-wide mean	115	14