

News and Views

Comptroller-General of Patents

At the end of this month Sir William Jarratt, the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, is retiring from the Patent Office after thirty-eight years service and six years of the comptroller-ship. He was educated at the Royal College of Science and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first class in the Natural Science Tripos, and a first class in the Mathematical Tripos; he was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple in 1910. Sir William has done much to enhance the high reputation of this great Government department and has been prominently associated with important developments in patent law. In view of the growing world-wide importance of broadcasting, it will also be gratefully remembered by all authors and composers that it was mainly owing to Sir William Jarratt's intervention at the Copyright Conference in Rome 1928 that there was inserted in the Copyright Convention the article "11 bis" ensuring that "Authors of literary and artistic works shall enjoy the exclusive right of authorizing the communication of their works to the public by radiocommunication".

WHILE regretting that Sir William Jarratt will not be at the helm to steer the initial course of the new Patents and Designs Act, from which so much is expected and which owes so much to his inspiration and labours, we are glad to be able to state that he is not retiring entirely from public life, and that as the secretary of the Trade Marks, Patents, and Designs Federation Ltd., he will still be able to utilise his great knowledge and experience in the same field. This Federation is a body devoted to promoting and securing mutual support and co-operation amongst traders in the British Empire and foreign countries in all matters relating to the protection of trade marks, patents, designs and analogous rights, and the suppression of unfair trade competition. Sir William's successor in the Patent Office will be Dr. Mark Frank Lindley. Dr. Lindley is a doctor of laws of the University of London and a bachelor of science with distinction in physics; he is a barrister-at-law of the Middle Temple and author of a standard work on "The Acquisition and Government of Backward Territory in International Law". Dr. Lindley, like Sir William Jarratt, combines scientific with legal attainments and has followed him through the ranks of the examining staff of the Patent Office, and the assistant comptrollership, to the comptroller-ship. It is very satisfactory to scientific men and to all those connected with patents in Great Britain, to find that the practice has again been followed of appointing a man with scientific as well as legal training to the comptrollership of the Patent Office.

Sir Aldo Castellani

SIR ALDO CASTELLANI, who has been appointed to succeed the late Sir Ronald Ross as director-in-chief of the Ross Institute for Tropical Diseases, has rendered long and distinguished services to

tropical medicine. He is lecturer on mycology and mycotic disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, professor of tropical medicine at the State University of Louisiana and also at the Royal University of Rome, so that the direct influence of his knowledge and experience extends to several centres of teaching and research. In regard to the large field of his activities, and in the number of his contributions to medical literature, Sir Aldo has had a remarkable career. He graduated at the University of Florence and continued his studies at Bonn and the Lister Institute, went to Uganda in 1902 on the invitation of the Foreign Office to investigate sleeping sickness, then was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Ceylon Medical School and afterwards went to Naples for a time to occupy a chair in the Royal University, which he resigned in 1918 to join Sir Patrick Manson on the staff of the London School of Tropical Medicine. He thus possesses the highest qualifications to influence the work and promote the development of the Ross Institute.

Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society

It is perhaps worth while to recall that in 1832—one hundred years ago—the proceedings at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on St. Andrew's Day were conducted by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, as president of the Society. Two awards of the Copley medal were made, and Michael Faraday received one of them. The second recipient (by deputy) was Siméon Denis Poisson, the eminent French mathematician, in recognition of his treatise "Nouvelle Théorie de l'Action Capillaire". He had been elected a foreign member in 1818, along with Baron Prony, Arago, Nathaniel Bowditch, and the Abbé Haüy. Poisson was born in 1781, and he died at Paris in 1840. He was associated with the Ecole Polytechnique there for nearly forty years, and he will be remembered as a prolific and illuminating writer in mathematics, physics, and astronomy. It was on this occasion that an announcement was made that following the example of the Paris Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society would in future admit no paper into its *Transactions* which had not been previously submitted to the consideration of at least two members of the Council best acquainted with the subject under discussion. The Society's roll of membership at the period in question appears to have comprised 11 royal personages, 45 foreign members, and 692 home fellows, a total of 748. In accordance with custom and following the afternoon's proceedings the fellows of the Society dined together at the Crown and Anchor tavern, the Duke of Sussex being in the chair.

The Pacific Entomological Survey

ABOUT four years ago, certain institutions in the Hawaiian Islands, including the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, the University of Hawaii, the Sugar Planters' Association and the Pineapple Growers'