

perhaps, arising from the feelings of a section among the natives themselves.

Rattray, while still an officer in the Service, was one of the first to fly to West Africa; and on his retirement, flying divided his interest with anthropology. He became one of the pioneers of gliding. It was his ambition that the club which he founded at Oxford should eventually become a friendly rival of the similar club at Cambridge; but this ambition is now left for others.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. A. E. Boycott, F.R.S., emeritus professor of pathology in the University of London, on May 12, aged sixty-one years.

Dr. W. Eagle Clarke, honorary supervisor of the Bird Collection and formerly keeper of the Natural History Department, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, on May 10, aged eighty-five years.

## News and Views

### Prof. Hans Geiger

THE Council of the Physical Society has this year awarded the fifteenth Duddell Medal to Prof. Hans Geiger, of the University of Tübingen. The medal is awarded to "persons who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge by the invention or design of scientific instruments, or by the discovery of materials used in their construction". Geiger's connexion with Great Britain goes back to the days, early in this century, when he went to Manchester to study radioactivity under the direction of Lord Rutherford, and it will also be remembered that one of the early results of this happy partnership was the demonstration of the possibility of detecting a single  $\alpha$ -particle by its electrical effect. The method in its original form was somewhat tedious and troublesome, but the invention of the 'point' or Geiger counter made possible much more rapid counting, the counting of  $\beta$ - as well as of  $\alpha$ -particles and, in its more recent form, introduced by Geiger himself, even the differentiation of the effects produced by  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -particles. These early researches and inventions laid the foundations on which have been built the more modern elaborate and less exacting automatic methods of counting used in this field.

GEIGER has also contributed notably to our knowledge of radioactive phenomena. In particular may be mentioned the experiments of Geiger and Nuttall, repeated later with greater accuracy by Geiger himself, to determine the ranges of the  $\alpha$ -particles from various radioactive products. These experiments led to the formulation of the well-known rule connecting velocity and range, which gives a means of calculating velocities from known ranges with remarkable accuracy. But of outstanding importance are the experiments made in Manchester by Geiger and Marsden on the scattering of a beam of  $\alpha$ -particles by thin sheets of matter. They recorded the striking observation that some of the  $\alpha$ -particles in a beam directed on to a sheet of matter are deflected through very large angles and may even emerge on the side of incidence of the beam of  $\alpha$ -rays. To explain the effect, Rutherford postulated the existence of large-angle scattering as

the result of occasional single encounters with atoms. This led to the formulation of Rutherford's nuclear theory of atomic structure, with all its subsequent remarkable developments and far-reaching reactions on atomic theory.

### Prof. E. Schrödinger and the University of Graz

SINCE the recent incorporation of Austria into Germany, little precise knowledge has been available as to the result of the change upon the position of some distinguished Austrian men of science. Upon inquiry we are informed that Prof. E. Schrödinger will continue to occupy the chair of theoretical physics in the University of Graz. The *Tagespost*, Graz, of March 30, publishes a letter from Prof. Schrödinger to the Senate of the University, in which he explains that he has not hitherto taken the active part expected of him in the National Socialist movement but is now glad to be reconciled to it. The last paragraph of his letter reads as follows: "Well-wishing friends who overestimate my importance consider it right that the repentant confession which I made to them should be made in public. I too belong to those who seize the outstretched hand of peace, because, sitting at my writing-desk, I have misjudged up to the last the real will and the true destiny of my land. I make this confession readily and joyfully. I believe it is spoken out of the hearts of many, and I hope in doing this to serve my country."

### Dr. R. P. Linstead

DR. R. P. Linstead, whose appointment to succeed Prof. G. M. Bennett in the chair of chemistry in the University of Sheffield, is announced on p. 943 is a distinguished younger worker in organic chemistry. Dr. Linstead is thirty-five years of age. He received his training at the City and Guilds College, Finsbury (1919-20), and at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London (1920-25), graduating with first-class honours in chemistry in 1923. For a time he carried out research work in organic chemistry at the Imperial College, being awarded degree of Ph.D. (London) in 1926, and of D.Sc. (London) in 1929.