

required for the work was graphically shown in an article in the *Times* for September 1, 1881.

Returning to Australia, Mr. Wragge served as Government Meteorologist for Queensland from 1887 to 1902, and he established the Weather Bureau at Brisbane, as well as high-level meteorological stations on Mount Wellington and Mount Kosciusko (7336 feet).

Mr. Wragge was an enthusiastic devotee of map meteorology, and in tracing the movements of cyclones and anticyclones he was accustomed to give these systems Christian names in his official reports. His views and methods, especially in later years, were frequently unorthodox.

#### DAVID LINDSAY.

ONE of the pioneer explorers of Australia has passed away recently at Port Darwin in the person of Mr. David Lindsay. Born in June 1856 at Goolwa, South Australia, of Scottish parents, Mr. Lindsay entered the State Survey Department as a youth, and in 1883 was selected to lead an expedition to Arnhem Land.

In 1888 Lindsay rode across the little known interior

of the continent taking only a native boy as companion. His route took him to the Macdonnell Ranges, to which he returned shortly afterwards for more detailed examination. Mr. Lindsay's most fruitful expedition was in 1891, when he was chosen to lead the expedition equipped by Sir T. Elder for the exploration of the great Victoria desert of Western Australia. Using camels for transport, he crossed 550 miles of desert in 35 days and was able to amplify the work of E. Giles, who had crossed that district fifteen years previously. On his return Mr. Lindsay directed attention to the existence of large auriferous areas in the interior. The outcome of his report was the development of the West Australian goldfield, which he continued to explore for some years.

At a later date Mr. Lindsay returned to the examination of the Northern Territory and in 1913 was nominated to a Commonwealth Commission charged with considering the economic development of the north. In 1920 he reported the discovery of large tracts of well-watered land which had previously been regarded as desert, and he directed attention to the possibilities of cotton growing in the Northern Territory.

### Current Topics and Events.

THE list of New Year honours includes the names of the following men distinguished by their scientific work or associations:—*Knights*: Prof. D. Drummond, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Durham; Dr. W. H. Hamer, Medical Officer of Health for London; and Dr. B. H. Spilsbury, hon. pathologist to the Home Office. *C.B.*: Dr. F. J. H. Coutts, Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health. *C.I.E.*: Dr. N. Annandale, director of the Zoological Survey of India; Lieut.-Col. A. T. Gage, Indian Medical Service, superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, and director of the Botanical Survey of India, Bengal; and Mr. F. A. Leete, Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma. *K.B.E.*: Prof. D. Orme Masson, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in the University of Melbourne. *C.B.E.*: Dr. J. W. Evans, F.R.S., a member of the governing body of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau; and Mr. F. E. Smith, F.R.S., director of Scientific Research, Admiralty.

It is gratifying to learn that Pasteur's centenary was celebrated at Lahore (India) on November 22 last, under the auspices of the Society for Promoting Scientific Knowledge. A conversazione was held at the rooms of the society and demonstrations given relating to Pasteur's researches. Great interest was taken by the public in the exhibits relating to crystals, silk-worms and their diseases, and microbes of various kinds shown under the microscopes. This was followed by a public meeting, at which Prof. B. L. Bhatia, president of the society, spoke on Pasteur's work in the biological field. Principal A. S. Hemmy, of the Government College, and Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Gill, of the K.E. Medical College, delivered speeches relating to Pasteur's work in the domains of chemistry and bacteriology respectively.

THE latest accounts of the Chilian earthquake of November 11 are mainly concerned with the destructiveness of the shock and accompanying sea-wave. The *Times* for December 28 contains the report of a correspondent who visited Copiapo and Vallenar five days after the earthquake. The meizoseismal area is sparsely populated, the towns within it containing only a few thousand inhabitants, most of whom dwelt in low adobe or wooden houses, and this no doubt accounts for the comparatively small loss of life. At Vallenar, which suffered most, there is not a house left standing that is fit to live in, yet, out of a population of 5500, not more than 600 persons were killed and a thousand injured. Interesting photographs, showing the completeness of the destruction by the sea-waves at Coquimbo and Chañaral, are reproduced in the *Times* for December 19 and 28.

At the meeting of the London Mathematical Society on January 18 at 5 o'clock, in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Mr. L. J. Mordell, reader in pure mathematics in the University of Manchester, will lecture on "An Introductory Account of the Arithmetical Theory of Algebraic Numbers, and its Recent Developments." Members of other societies, or any one who wishes to learn something concerning the theory of ideal numbers, will be welcomed.

A TRIBUNAL of investigation into the agricultural problem has been appointed as follows: Sir William Ashley, professor of commerce and vice-principal of the University of Birmingham; Prof. W. G. S. Adams, Gladstone professor of political theory and institutions, Oxford; and Prof. D. H. MacGregor, Drummond professor of political economy, Oxford.