

would have been whole-hearted in acknowledging that he was right. Nansen knew this well, and in one of his last letters to me he wrote: "I think I have had some evidence and experience as to the ability of your people to appreciate the achievements of foreigners as much as those of your own people. In fact, I never felt that I was a foreigner in England or Scotland." Their sense of kinship with Nansen led his British friends to initiate the *Fram* Preservation Fund while he was still alive, and now they can think of no worthier memorial to the man in his own land than the old ship secured for ever against the tooth of time, like the *Victory* at Portsmouth.

HUGH ROBERT MILL.

#### DR. FRANK R. BLAXALL.

DR. F. R. BLAXALL, who died on May 24 after a brief illness, was bacteriologist to the Vaccine Department of the Ministry of Health, a post he had held for just over thirty years. He established the Government Lymph Institute at Hendon and was responsible during this period for the preparation of the vaccine lymph issued by the Government, and the high reputation which this product deservedly enjoys is largely due to his care and painstaking work.

Blaxall received his medical education at University College and Hospital, and obtained his M.D. (Lond.) degree in 1890 with honours in medicine. After holding several resident hospital posts, he was appointed lecturer in bacteriology at Westminster Hospital Medical School and in 1896, in collaboration with Dr. Colcott Fox, published an important paper on ringworm in London. He now came under the influence of the late Sir Armand Ruffer and Prof. Allan Macfadyen at the British (now Lister) Institute of Preventive Medicine, and at its old headquarters in Great Russell Street investigated the bacteriology of rheumatoid arthritis, and with Macfadyen published a paper on the thermophilic bacteria—one of the early contributions to this subject. In 1896 he commenced an investigation with Dr. Monckton Copeman on the inhibitory action of glycerin upon the adventitious micro-organisms present in calf lymph, and their results were communicated to the Local Government

Board and to the Royal Commission on Vaccination then sitting, the outcome of this work being Blaxall's appointment as bacteriologist to the Vaccine Establishment, then in Lamb's Conduit Street.

From thence onwards, Blaxall's work was mainly concentrated upon vaccine lymph, and he published papers on the preparation of calf lymph and on the sterilising action of glycerin and of oil of cloves upon the adventitious micro-organisms of vaccine lymph, respecting which he became a recognised authority. He served as a member of the Smallpox and Vaccination Commission of the Health Committee of the League of Nations and of the Departmental Committee on Vaccination. To lifelong friends and colleagues, Blaxall's loss is indeed a heavy one.

R. T. HEWLETT.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Thomas Walker Arnold, C.I.E., professor of Arabic in the University of London, English editor of the "Encyclopaedia of Islam", on June 9, aged sixty-six years.

Prof. J. B. Bradbury, for the past thirty-six years Downing professor of medicine in the University of Cambridge, on June 4, aged eighty-nine years.

The Right Rev. G. F. Browne, formerly Bishop of Stepney and of Bristol, sometime secretary of the Local Examination Syndicate at Cambridge and also (1887-92) Disney professor of archaeology in the University, on June 1, aged ninety-six years.

Major Sir Aston Cooper-Key, C.B., formerly chief inspector of explosives at the Home Office, on May 28, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. Kiyoo Nakamura, honorary member of the Royal Meteorological Society, who was director of the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan from 1895 until 1923, on Jan. 3, aged seventy-five years.

Mr. E. A. Sperry, inventor of the Sperry gyro-compass and other gyroscopic appliances, on June 16, at sixty-nine years of age.

Dr. G. N. Stewart, professor of physiology, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, on May 28, at seventy years of age.

Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston, fellow and tutor of King's College, Cambridge, who served as medical officer and naturalist to the first Mount Everest expedition under Col. Howard Bury, on June 3, aged fifty-five years.

### News and Views.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH'S lectures on recent discoveries of fossil men, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons during the month of May, and published in an abridged form in this week's Supplement, are likely to provide material for argument among anthropologists for some time to come. During the last decade, but especially in the last four or five years, there have been some remarkable accessions to our knowledge of early types of man. Palestine, Gibraltar, South Africa, East Africa, and most recently China, each in turn has yielded to the spade new types or new variants of known types. Each of these discoveries, it is safe to assume, helps us a stage on the way to final truth; but for the moment, it must be admitted, they add to the complexity of the problem

which the anthropologist seeks to solve. Sir Arthur Keith's lectures, in a comprehensive survey of the new material, aimed at showing how it could be adapted in building up a scheme of the origin, development, and distribution of early man. One of the most interesting of recent discoveries with which he dealt—probably quite new to most of his audience—was that of the remarkable skull from Gardar in south-west Greenland, for the description of which he was indebted to Dr. Hansen of Copenhagen. This skull is not, indeed, one of high antiquity, for it was found in association with the remains of Norsemen in a twelfth-century graveyard; but whether it be regarded as atavistic, as Dr. Hansen holds, or pathological as Sir Arthur Keith is inclined to think, its