DR. T. V. BARKER.

THE death of Dr. T. V. Barker on April 15 after a short illness, at the early age of fifty years, is a serious loss to the study of crystallography in Great Britain. Born in 1881, at Lytham in Lancashire, he went up from Kirkham Grammar School to Exeter College, Oxford. While studying chemistry as an undergraduate, he came under the influence of Sir Henry Miers, then professor of mineralogy at Oxford, and acquired an enthusiastic love for crystals which inspired him throughout his life. He also studied in Munich under Prof. Groth. His election to a senior demyship at Magdalen in 1905 enabled him to devote himself to research, first in Oxford and afterwards in Russia.

Barker's earlier work was concerned with the regular growth, in parallel position, of crystals of numerous soluble salts upon minerals and upon one another, and with its bearing upon isomorphism and similarity of structure; and led to the recognition of the importance of molecular volume and of 'topic axes' in relation to such parallel growth. Many of these results have since been confirmed by the evidence of X-rays.

Later on, Barker worked for a time in St. Petersburg, as a pupil of Prof. Fedorov, with whom he collaborated in the publication of his monumental work, "Das Kristallreich", a dictionary of the forms of all the crystals so far described, by means of which any substance included in it might be recognised from the measurement of its crystals ('crystallochemical analysis'). The method was, however, complicated and required an amount of specialised knowledge which prevented its general use, and after his return to Oxford in 1909, Barker devoted his attention to devising a simpler method of classification. His book, "Systematic Crystallography", published last year, described the principles on which he proposed that a new dictionary of the crystal kingdom should be constructed, and it is much to be regretted that he did not live to supervise the execution of his project. In this connexion he also published, in 1922, a book on "Graphical and Tabular Methods in Crystallography", with the view of simplifying and shortening the operations of measuring and describing crystal forms.

At Oxford, Barker was successively demonstrator in mineralogy and University lecturer, and afterwards reader, in chemical crystallography, while he held a research fellowship at Brasenose College. His lectures and classes did much to encourage the study of crystals among undergraduates, and he also endeavoured, by vacation courses to schoolmasters, to awaken an interest in the subject in schools. During the last few years he had been led to take up administrative work, and since 1929 the increasing work of the University Chest, of which he had become secretary, had claimed his whole time. He will be greatly missed on many University boards, as well as by his many scientific friends and colleagues in Oxford and elsewhere. H. L. B.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Thomas Ashby, who was director of the British School at Rome from 1906 until 1925, and an authority on the archæology of Rome, aged fifty-seven years.

Prof. J. E. Edwards, principal and professor of mathematics and physics at Queen's College, London, author of well-known text-books on the calculus, on May 16, aged seventy-seven years.

Prof. T. R. Glynn, emeritus professor of medicine in the University of Liverpool, on May 12, aged ninety years.

Lieut.-Col. H. T. Morshead, Director of the Burma Circle, Survey of India, who was a member of the expeditions to Mount Everest in 1921 and 1922, on May 17, aged forty-eight years.

Mr. F. P. Sprent, assistant keeper of printed books in the British Museum and author of many works on cartography, on May 16, aged forty-six years.

News and Views.

THE Prime Minister's announcement in Parliament upon the future policy of airship development gave little cause for surprise, and must presumably be received in the spirit of half a loaf being better than none. The Government was faced with three courses of action: (1) To continue on a programme of new ships, carrying on the development as experience dictates; (2) to cease entirely, disposing of *R100*, turning the Cardington works to other uses, and terminating our responsibilities to the authorities who erected the various colonial mooring masts as best we can; (3) to recondition the existing airship, and find sufficient money to allow a limited experimentation to proceed along lines that the Simon inquiry and the Aeronautical Research Committee have suggested. The Government has chosen the last course, stating that it hopes that the use of the ship will serve to supplement the model experiments already made, will keep together a small nucleus of trained men, and will add its quota to the relieving of the local unemployment problem. It is estimated that sums of £120,000, £130,000, and £140,000 should be sufficient for this during the next three financial years. It is hoped that the various Governments concerned will agree to maintain their own airship stations where in existence.

So far as it goes, there can be no objection to this scheme, but it is obvious that neither in the Prime Minister's statement nor the subsequent debate is there any recognition of the fact that there is any necessity to ensure the continuation of scientific thought upon the broad problems of future development. That a select company of airship builders and operators will be maintained was stressed several times, but the fact that without a new building programme there will be no design staff kept together appears to have been entirely overlooked. It is an open secret that the designers of both of the ships have already been practically dispersed, owing to the lack