

English summer. In Gallery No. VI., Mr. Samuel Smith's dry point of "Richmond Castle, Yorkshire" (1165), is a fine study of architecture set between the water and the sky.

The Architectural Room provides much food for thought. Looking at the dignified and harmonious designs of residential and business blocks

in framework of steel, we wonder why the appearance of our great cities is not more pleasing, and are impelled towards the hopeful conclusion that the source of our present discontent is the mixture of the cubical with the older, gabled forms; and that all may once more be well when the new pattern has complete possession. VAUGHAN CORNISH.

## News and Views

### Georges Cuvier

ON May 13 occurs the centenary of the death of the distinguished French naturalist and statesman, Baron Cuvier, often referred to as the founder of comparative anatomy. "It was", says von Zittel, "the creative genius of Cuvier that erected Comparative Anatomy into an independent science, and defined principles upon which the investigation of fossil Vertebrates could be carried out with accuracy. . . . His greatness rests upon the magnificent work that he accomplished in the domain of Vertebrates, upon the scientific method which he founded for the identification of fossil bones, and upon his successful demonstration that the primeval mammals were not mere varieties of living forms, but belonged to extinct species and genera." Moreover, Cuvier, by his skill as a lecturer and writer and by his commanding personality, attracted many to the study of geology and palæontology, while, as one of the inspectors appointed by Napoleon to reorganise the schools and colleges of France and other countries, he did much to introduce and extend the teaching of natural history and other sciences.

CUVIER, who was made a baron in 1819, was born on Aug. 23, 1769, at Montbéliard, then belonging to the Duchy of Württemberg, his full name being Georges Léopold Chrétien Frédéric Dagobert Cuvier. A child of unusual gifts, he received his earliest education from his mother, but at the age of fifteen years became a student at the Academy of Stuttgart, and at nineteen was a tutor in a nobleman's family in Normandy. Here he passed the years of the Revolution, little affected by the events of the time, but meanwhile extending his knowledge of natural history. The turning point in his career came with his friendship with the Abbé Tessier, through whom he went to Paris, where he quickly attained to a distinguished position. In 1795 he was given a post in the Museum, in 1796 was made a member of the Institut de France, in 1800 he succeeded Daubenton at the Collège de France, and in 1803 he was made permanent secretary to the Academy of Sciences. His works included his "Leçons d'anatomie comparée" (1801-5), "L'Anatomie des mollusques" (1816), "Le Règne animal" (1817), "Les Ossements fossiles de quadrupèdes" (1821-24), and his uncompleted "Histoire naturelle des poissons". His *éloges*, published in three volumes, included those on Priestley, Banks, Delambre, Berthold, Lacépède, and Davy. For some years he was Chancellor of the University of Paris, and both under Napoleon and his successors he held high State appointments. His

death was regarded as a national calamity, and his burial in the Père la Chaise cemetery was attended by a large concourse of people.

### Portraits at the Royal Academy

IN addition to the paintings and other studies at the Royal Academy mentioned by Dr. Vaughan Cornish in his article published elsewhere in this issue, the exhibits include portraits of the following: Dr. Alfred Cox, medical secretary to the British Medical Association, 1912-32 (190), by Sir Arthur Cope; Dr. Thomas Sinclair, M.P. for the Queen's University of Belfast (210), by Mr. George Harcourt; Prof. Blair Bell, of the University of Liverpool (261), by Mr. John A. A. Berrie; Prof. R. S. Troup, director of the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford (332), by Mr. Peter A. Hay; Sir Robert Witt, vice-chairman of the Institute of Industrial Psychology (377), by Mr. Oswald Birley; Dr. W. W. Vaughan, headmaster of Rugby School, 1921-31 (398), by Mr. Glyn Philpot; Mr. F. Howard Livens, vice-president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (447), by Mr. Arthur G. Walker; Dr. Bevan Lean, headmaster of Sidcot, Somerset, 1902-30 (542), by Mr. Bertram Priestman; Lieut.-Gen. the Right Hon. J. C. Smuts, president in 1931 of the British Association (594), by Mr. John Wheatley. Among the statuary we notice: Sir Ernest Shackleton (1390), statue, and Lord Melchett (1392), relief, both by Mr. Sargeant Jagger; Sir Ambrose Fleming, emeritus professor of electrical engineering in the University of London (1492), bronze bust, by Mr. George H. Paulin; Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, director of the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta (1564), bronze head, by Marguerite Milward.

### Science in Drama

THE need for men of science to appreciate the sociological consequences of their work, alongside the equally vital necessity for politicians to realise what science opens up in the field of social and industrial reconstruction, have often been stressed in these columns. It is, therefore, with much interest that we note the production at the Globe Theatre, London, of "Wings over Europe", by Robert Nichols and Maurice Brown. The authors avail themselves of a legitimate poetic licence. A young and brilliant scientific worker with a rather simple sociological outlook discovers how to release the energy of the atom, and offers to present his discovery to the British cabinet, provided the cabinet will at once take such steps as should now be possible to eliminate poverty and reduce all work to the barest minimum. The confusion and despair of a cabinet of men ignorant