

## News and Views

## King's Birthday Honours

THE King's birthday honours list contains the names of the following scientific workers and others associated with scientific work:—*Viscount*: The Right Hon. Lord Buckmaster, chairman of the Governing Body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. *Knights Bachelor*: Dr. H. B. Brackenbury, chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association; Mr. R. H. Davis, governing director of Messrs. Siebe Gorman and Co., Ltd., inventor of the Davis submarine escape apparatus and of a submersible decompression chamber for use in deep sea diving; Dr. Robert L. Mond, president of the Faraday Society and of the Egypt Exploration Society; Mr. MacPherson Robertson, for services in connexion with the Antarctic Research Expedition, 1929–31; Prof. W. Wright Smith, regius professor of botany in the University of Edinburgh, and regius keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. *C.B.*: Dr. C. V. Drysdale, director of scientific research, Admiralty. *C.S.I.*: Brev.-Col. F. P. Mackie, director of the Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong, Assam. *C.M.G.*: Mr. H. E. Hurst, director-general of Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Egypt; Mr. F. A. Stockdale, agricultural adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. *C.I.E.*: Mr. R. D. Richmond, chief conservator of forests, Madras. *C.B.E.*: Mr. A. W. Clapham, secretary of the Society of Antiquaries; Dr. Eleanor Constance Lodge, until recently principal of Westfield College, University of London; Mr. R. J. Reynolds, honorary adviser in radiology to the Ministry of Pensions; Prof. R. G. Stapledon, professor of agricultural botany, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and director of the Welsh Plant Breeding Association. *O.B.E.*: Mr. W. G. Fairweather, director of surveys, Northern Rhodesia; Mr. H. E. Flint, deputy conservator of forests, Burma; Mr. A. M. Henshaw, a member of the Safety in Mines Research Board; Mr. F. T. Morehead, deputy conservator of forests, Insein, Burma; Mr. H. B. Owen, medical superintendent and principal, Medical School, Mulago, Uganda Protectorate; Mr. G. Shearing, principal scientific officer, Naval Signal School, Portsmouth; Dr. H. C. Sinderson, dean of the Royal College of Medicine, and physician of the Royal Hospital, Ministry of the Interior, Iraq; Mr. C. W. Scott, forest economist to the Government of Burma; Major D. R. Thomas, chemical examiner to the Government of the Punjab; Mr. G. W. M. Woods, Indian Forest Service, Burma. *M.B.E.*: Mr. D. W. D'Silva, extra assistant conservator of Forests, Burma; Mr. O. E. C. Judd, deputy director of surveys, Bihar and Orissa; Mr. H. Kavanagh, timber assistant, Forest Department, Burma; Mr. A. Marshall, superintendent, Bacteriological Laboratories Section, Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories, Khartoum. Mr. E. Muir, research worker in leprosy at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, has been awarded a bar to his Kaiser-i-Hind medal.

## Honour for Sir Aurel Stein

IT is announced that the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society has awarded the gold medal of the Society "in recognition of distinguished services in Oriental Research" to Sir Aurel Stein, the well-known traveller and archæologist. For more than thirty years Sir Aurel Stein has been engaged in travel and exploration in Central Asia, with the authority and under the direction of H.M. Indian Government. His investigations among the sand-buried cities of Eastern Turkestan and Western China, where he shares with Sven Hedin the honour of pioneer exploration, have recovered for archæological and historical science a vast treasure of literary and official records, as well as of objects which reveal the art and culture of the early peoples of the Tarim basin. The remarkable achievements of their art in two directions in particular are demonstrated in two special publications dealing with this material—"Ancient Figured Silks Excavated . . . at Ruined Sites of Central Asia" (1920) and "Ancient Buddhist Paintings from the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas on the Westernmost Border of China" (1921). The results achieved in the journeys carried out by Sir Aurel Stein under the order of H.M. Indian Government have been described in a number of carefully prepared and scholarly publications, of which the best known are "Sand-buried Ruins of Khotan" (1907), "Explorations in Central Asia" (1906–8), "Ruins of Desert Cathay" (1912), and "Serindia" (1921), which for a travel book achieved the almost unique distinction of becoming a 'collector's book' saleable at a high premium within a short time of publication. In another field, "On Alexander's Track to the Indus" (1929) deals with exploration and topographical research in the lands of the Indian north-west frontier. Sir Aurel Stein received the honour of K.C.I.E. in 1912.

## Sir William Crookes (1832–1919)

ON June 17 occurs the centenary of the birth of Sir William Crookes, who was born in London in 1832 and died in Kensington on April 4, 1919, at the age of eighty-six. Save for a year or two, all his life was spent in London, and at his death he was buried in Brompton Cemetery. The son of a tailor, he was sent for a time to the Grammar School, Chippenham, but his scientific training began when at the age of sixteen he became a student under Prof. A. W. Hofmann at the Royal College of Chemistry. For four years he was one of Hofmann's assistants. He then spent a year as meteorologist at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, and another as lecturer in chemistry at the Training College, Chester. At twenty-four years of age he married and returned to London, which henceforth became his home. Few men of science have had a more active or distinguished career than Crookes. For sixty years he was recognised as a most skilful experimenter, and he was likewise known for his intellectual independence and his wide interests. He first became well known through his