

that ten of the undertones could be heard easily, Dr. Bond, with the same fork, could distinguish the fifth only occasionally.

In spite of lameness, Knapman was for the greater part of his life a strenuous pedestrian; latterly exertion told visibly on him, and he could not easily resign himself to physical inactivity. When eye-strain, though temporary, threatened further to limit his powers, he became acutely depressed, and the end followed rapidly.

An abrupt manner belied fanatical devotion to the University, and impatience with stupidity was balanced by a ready approval of good work. His judgment of men and affairs was valued not only by his colleagues at Reading, but also throughout the wide circle of educational administration in which he was a well-known personality. The perfection of his routine remains, permanently to strengthen the office with which he was associated, but the wit that lit up suddenly the stormiest or gloomiest of committee meetings and played like summer lightning on the rare evenings when he gave himself up to social enjoyment is lost, except in the memory of those who knew him. E. H. N.

#### DR. J. STUART THOMSON

THE many friends and old pupils of Stuart Thomson will sincerely regret to hear of his death, at the age of sixty-four years, which occurred suddenly after a short sea trip, at Swansea, on Aug. 28. For many years Stuart Thomson, who was the brother of Sir J. Arthur Thomson, was senior lecturer and demonstrator in zoology in the University of Manchester, and many generations of medical and science students in Manchester had the advantage of his patient and sympathetic teaching. His wide knowledge of his subject—and particularly of vertebrate zoology—gave him authority in his lectures, which impressed those who heard him.

Stuart Thomson studied at Edinburgh and Freiburg, and also under Prof. Studer in Berne, who gave him an interest in the group of Alcyonaria on which in later years he became a recognised authority. He held teaching appointments in bio-

logy at Edinburgh and Plymouth, and in 1903 became assistant Government biologist at the Cape of Good Hope. In 1910 he returned, going first to Bristol and then to Manchester.

Stuart Thomson was the author of many valuable papers on the Alcyonaria of South African waters, all of them characterised by his patient investigation and careful description of detail. The last of these papers, published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa*, in which the problems concerning the geographical distribution of the South African Alcyonaria are fully discussed, is of great general interest and a very remarkable piece of work.

In his later years Stuart Thomson devoted his spare time to the preparation of an elaborate memoir on the anatomy of the tortoise, of which no complete account has been published since the time of Bojanus.

Stuart Thomson resigned his post in Manchester in 1926, on account of failing health, and went to live with his sister in Cirencester, where he spent much of his time in preparing his book for publication. A few weeks ago he expressed the desire to go once more to sea, and his wish was fulfilled in a five days' cruise, but he died suddenly on landing at Swansea. S. J. H.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. J. A. Clubb, formerly curator of the City Museum at Liverpool.

Prof. W. H. Sherzer, head of the Department of Natural Science at the Michigan State Normal College, known for his work in geological survey in Michigan, on July 17, aged seventy-two years.

Mr. S. Williamson Wallace, formerly director of the Egyptian Government College of Agriculture and director of agriculture for the State of Victoria, on Sept. 10, aged seventy-seven years.

Dr. A. Wilmore, formerly lecturer in geography at the Westminster Training College and principal of the Technical School, Colne, author of several well-known textbooks of geography and geology, on Sept. 6, aged seventy years.

## News and Views

### Forestry and National Economy

SIR JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, formerly chairman of the Forestry Commission, has an article on "Forestry and National Economy" in the *Empire Forestry Journal* (vol. 2, No. 1, 1932). He confines himself to the work of the Forestry Commission in Great Britain and deplors the economy and cuts, which he admits were inevitable under existing conditions. Sir John himself gives the obvious reason why the heavy non-productive expenditure of the Commission could not hope to escape curtailment in the words: "It is unlikely that absolute continuity in the scale of forestry operations will ever be secured except where the expenditure in the forests is wholly met from the revenue they produce. It will be 30-40 years before this happy state of things can be reached

in Great Britain." But he points out that the Forestry Commission can seize the opportunity offered and consolidate the work already accomplished and overhaul methods of organisation. In the dominions, the period at which the forests will pay their way may be reached earlier. In India it has been reached already. In the Crown Colonies, where the form of government is more autocratic, continuity ought to be easy of achievement when once the authorities realise the fatal folly of economising on productive expenditure. This latter point has already been alluded to in NATURE (June 11, p. 845).

In discussing the present position of the Forestry Commission, Sir John gives a brief summary of the work of the first ten years. £9,000,000 was eventually sanctioned for the work to be carried out during the

following ten years. As a result of the May Report on Economy, the annual sum made available to the Commission was cut down by 50 per cent for the next five years. This cut has been met in two ways: first by reducing the provision of forest workers' holdings to the number absolutely necessary for the working of the forests, and, secondly, by stereotyping the annual planting programme at 20,000 acres or thereby, which will substantially reduce expenditure on acquisition of land. An expanding programme necessitates land acquisition on a large scale. Under a stabilised programme, acquisition can be limited to the replacement of the area actually planted. The reduction in area annually required works out at about 40,000 acres. These changes mean that the machine will take longer to arrive at its goal, but that it will not be thrown out of gear. No labour is to be paid off, and elasticity has been achieved partly by the distribution of the planting work all over the country and partly by the fact that the programme has been an expanding one.

#### National Research Laboratories, Canada

ON Aug. 10, the new National Research Laboratories of the National Research Council of Canada were officially opened in Ottawa by the Governor-General, the Earl of Bessborough. Among other speakers at the official opening were the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, and Dr. H. M. Tory, the president of the National Research Council and the National Research Laboratories. A description of the building and the proposed organisation of departments and staff was given in NATURE of Jan. 4, 1930. The building is severely classic in style and closely follows the design of the architect's model reproduced in our article. It comprises four stories and basement, and encloses two large interior courtyards, which give ample light to all laboratory rooms overlooking them. Under each courtyard is an arched exhibition hall. There are three main divisions of research, namely, physics and engineering, biology and agriculture, and chemistry. There is also a division of research information which will be responsible for the publication of the *Canadian Journal of Research*, annual reports, technical reports, and bulletins. In the south-west wing is a series of industrial exhibits. Many delegates to the Imperial Economic Conference were present at the opening ceremony, and the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin presented a number of portraits of eminent men of science which were given by Surgeon-Capt. Hanson.

#### National Research Council of Canada

THE Report of the National Research Council of Canada for the year 1930-31 states that although industry has been under a cloud, during the year the demand for scientific assistance addressed to the Council has increased greatly. There are now 29 research committees associated with the Council in the solution of scientific and technical problems which arise in industry, and the annual expenditure is a little more than 550,000 dollars. Five fellowships of 1200 dollars, 22 studentships of 1000, and 35 bursaries of 800 dollars a year have been awarded, and 35 researches

conducted in Canadian universities have been assisted during the year. From the summaries of the activities of the associated committees and of the reports on assisted researches, it is evident that Canada is building up a corps of research workers whose influence on the future of her industries is likely to be most important.

#### New Mount Everest Expedition

A NEW attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest will be made in 1933. The announcement of the expedition, which appeared in the *Times* of Sept. 3, is made by Admiral Sir William Goodenough and Brigadier-General C. G. Bruce on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club respectively. The last expedition was in 1924, when Mr. G. L. Mallory and Mr. A. C. Irvine lost their lives within some two hundred feet of the summit, if they did not actually reach the top. On the same expedition, Col. E. F. Norton and Dr. T. H. Somervell climbed to 28,200 feet. The previous attempts were in 1922, when a height of 27,300 feet was reached, and in 1921, when the expedition was a reconnaissance of the routes. Since 1924 the difficulty in renewing the work has been due to the unwillingness of Tibet to grant permission. Now, however, the Dalai Lama has given consent to a British expedition and arrangements are in active progress. The leader of the expedition will be Mr. H. Ruttledge, late of the Indian Civil Service, who has had considerable experience of mountain climbing in the Himalayas. The office of the expedition will be at the house of the Royal Geographical Society, South Kensington, S.W.7, and the secretary is Mr. J. M. Scott, who was a member of the British Air Route Expedition to Greenland.

#### New Archæological Periodical

THE new archæological publication *Préhistoire*, of which the first number has just been issued, has been planned on lines differing from those of any archæological periodical now running. Its contents will consist entirely of original memoirs, and it will include neither reviews of books nor current news; while in scope it will cover the archæology and art of the pre- and protohistoric periods, that is to say, from the earliest times up to the foundation of the great empires of antiquity. The articles will be descriptive—these dealing with the latest discoveries—statements of new theory, or syntheses taking a broad survey of facts. A special feature will be the illustrations, which in the case of each communication will be adequate to the requirements of the subject, and, in any event, more ample than could be given in the general run of archæological periodicals. It is hoped that the ampler space and fuller illustration which will be available, will make it possible to include in *Préhistoire* studies of which the publication has been impossible up to now owing to their requirements in these respects. The new journal is edited by M. Raymond Lantier with an international editorial committee, which includes, among others, Comte Bégouen, the Abbé Breuil, Mr. Miles Burkitt, Prof. Bosch Gimpera, Prof. H. Obermaier, and Dr. O. Menghin. The first issue contains contributions by