Chodat was a good systematist, as is shown by his monograph of the Polygalaceæ; but the wideness of his interests is attested by his publications on fossil plants and genetics as well. His wide and philosophic outlook is mirrored in his excellent "Principes de Botanique", which is in every way an admirable textbook. A stimulating teacher, Chodat trained many first-rate botanists whose researches do credit to their master. So eminent a botanist was sure to receive due recognition abroad, and Chodat was awarded honorary degrees by the universities both of Manchester and of Cambridge, and last year he was awarded the Linnean Medal of the Linnean Society of London, of which he had been a foreign member since 1914. Unfortunately, during the last few years, partly due to systematic overwork, he suffered from ill-health, and shortly after his return from a visit to Egypt and Palestine he died after a short illness. He will be greatly missed in England, as well as Switzerland, for he was a frequent and welcome visitor to this country, where he had many friends. F. E. W.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. M. G. Foster, son of Sir Michael Foster and author of numerous papers on balneology and climatology, on June 16, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. C. E. Grunsky, consulting engineer, president of the California Academy of Science, president in 1924 of the American Society of Civil Engineers, an authority on water engineering and supply, on June 9, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. Thomas H. Macbride, emeritus president of Iowa State University, professor of botany in the University in 1884–1914, an authority on Myxomycetes, on March 27, aged eighty-six years.

News and Views

Sir Robert Mond

THE honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred by the University of Toronto, on June 6, at the time of the annual Convocation, on Sir Robert Mond. Sir Robert, who was knighted in 1932, is the eldest son of the late Dr. Ludwig Mond, F.R.S., and has inherited his distinguished father's scientific tastes, as is shown by his association with many learned societies, including the Faraday Society, of which he is a past president. Another side of his scientific activity is shown by his interest in archæological studies, and he is president of the Egypt Exploration Society. Sir Robert was one of those chosen to receive an honorary degree at the opening of the new wing of the Royal Ontario Museum in the autumn of 1933, but was unable to visit Toronto until the recent Convocation. The Royal Ontario Museum owes Sir Robert a great debt of gratitude, not only for actual gifts of great value, but also for his constant advice during the development of the Museum from very small beginnings. His most recent gift is in sharing with Dr. Sigmund Samuel, of Toronto, and Bishop White, formerly of Honan, China, now professor of Chinese literature in the University of Toronto, in the donation of a very valuable library of Chinese books, now known as the Chinese Library of the University of Toronto, and containing more than forty thousand volumes.

Excavations at Tell el Duweir, 1933-34

AN exhibition of the material discovered by the Wellcome Archæological Research Expedition to the Near East in the second season's excavation at Tell Duweir, 25 miles south-west of Jerusalem, under the direction of Mr. J. L. Starkey, will be held at the rooms of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde St., W.1, on July 2–21. The work of the Expedition during the past season has now established the extent of the Early Copper Age site as covering at least 150 acres. It includes the remains of a large dolmen. The upper terrace of a limestone ridge flanking the Tell across the western valley was found to be honeycombed with caverns which had been artificially enlarged and adapted as dwellings in the Early Copper Age, and re-used at a later date as burial places. Metal here occurred rarely, but unique for this early period was a heavy gold bead, contemporary with proto-early dynastic age in Egypt. Rough castings from moulds were found on the surface. Pottery was hand-made; and small pottery bowls showing a sharp impress afforded evidence of textiles. A large necropolis lower down the side of the ridge yielded contracted burials in small oval chamber-tombs with a shallow shaft. In these were daggers or darts, food vessels, etc. This cemetery is equated with the Egyptian Old Kingdom. At the north-west corner of the Tell, the Hyksos fosse and revetment were uncovered; and the later system of defence was traced in its entirety. The Persian residency superimposed on the Jewish palace-fort destroyed in the sixth century B.C. was cleared.

AMONG other discoveries, by far the most interesting and important was that of a small temple found in clearing the fosse. This consisted of a square sanctuary containing an altar and shrine, with two small store chambers. Free-standing benches were arranged on three sides of the sanctuary. This building had been destroyed by fire and its contents were thus found complete, although damaged by the flames. They consisted of a large number of ceremonial vessels and utensils, toilet articles, etc. The most important is the painted pot, of which the inscription has already given rise to much discussion among experts, as to the affinities of the script and its translation. Other exhibits from the temple include a number of scarabs bearing the name of Amenhotep III, notably one recording the killing of 102 lions

in the tenth year of his reign. Ivory, glass and faience objects include a beautiful small ivory mask. The art of this and other carved objects, including a carved hand, three-quarter life size, suggest an artistic relation of some kind with Tell Amarna. Some ivories, much calcined by fire, including a remarkable perfume vase fashioned from an ivory tusk, are delicate examples of the engraver's art. A plaque of Rameses II points to the destruction of the temple having taken place not later than 1262 B.C., but until the levels below the temple have been examined, it is not possible to suggest the date of its foundation.

Fuel Research in Great Britain

IN the course of a normal year, about six hundred visitors are received at the Fuel Research Station, Greenwich, but the Fuel Research Board has come to the conclusion that, in addition, a general visitation would be a valuable means of bringing the Station's work before industry and the public. The first visitation was held on June 25, when about three hundred guests were received by Sir Harold Hartley (chairman of the Fuel Research Board), Dr. F. S. Sinnatt (Director of Fuel Research) and Sir Frank Smith (secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research). The visitors were given an opportunity of seeing practically all the modern methods in the study and treatment of coal. Demonstrations of coal-washing, by wet and dry systems, attracted a large number of visitors. A rotary coal dryer and mill for pulverising, together with such burners as the 'Grid' and 'Vortex' for the powdered fuel, were shown in operation. Coal-oil suspensions showed one line along which research is being conducted with the view of making coal a more flexible fuel. Specimens of the liquid products of low-temperature carbonisation were shown. But perhaps the focus of interest for most visitors was in the hydrogenation building, where compressors for delivering hydrogen at a pressure of 200 atmospheres, and the converters in which the reaction takes place at that pressure and a temperature of 480° C., were demonstrated in action.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

SOME interesting information was given by the Minister of Agriculture in the House of Commons on June 25, when Sir Arnold Wilson asked two questions on the subject of foot-and-mouth disease at the request of the Parliamentary Science Committee. Sir Arnold asked what progress has been made by the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Committee during the last two years; and what, broadly speaking, the results of its investigations have been, more particularly in the direction of preventive treatment by inoculation. Mr. Elliot promised a memorandum on the subject in reply and stated that the Fifth Progress Report of the Committee is in course of preparation, and is expected to be available in the autumn. Sir Arnold also asked whether the Committee has considered the possible connexion between the quality of the food of cattle and the incidence of this disease; and whether the Committee is dealing with the question of the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease by a combination of high-quality food and improved hygiene. Mr. Elliot in his reply stated that the Committee has advised that there is "no evidence to show that diet or hygiene, or a combination of both, have any influence on the spread of foot-and-mouth disease. Clinical observations and experimental work carried out by the Committee have in fact shown that animals in very good condition may contract the disease in a more severe form than animals in poor condition". Referring to the possible spread of foot-and-mouth disease by imported straw, in answer to a question by Col. Acland-Troyte, Mr. Elliot stated that the importation into Great Britain from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists of hay and straw for use as fodder or litter for animals is prohibited, and imported straw used for packing merchandise has to be destroyed after use; there does not appear to be justification for further prohibition of the importation of this material.

Educational Sound Films

UNDER the auspices of the British Film Institute, 4, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, a private demonstration of educational sound films was presented at the Academy Cinema, London, on June 21, before teachers and educationists. As Mr. H. Ramsbotham, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, pointed out in his introductory address, such films must not be accepted without reservation, for they should always be looked upon as being supplementary to the teacher himself. The production of the films shown was a piece of pioneer work and experimental in character, and the venture augurs well for the future of the cinematograph in education, especially if the producers receive the constructive criticism from teachers for which they ask. There is little doubt that, provided it is not abused, the sound film will prove an important asset to the teacher of the future. The seven films presented on this occasion clearly showed not only the expert film producers we have at our command, but also where the film will be a useful aid and where it will prove an unwelcome intruder.

THE films of the life-history of the thistle, the growth and irritability of roots, and the physiology of breathing were examples of good educational films—useful tools in the hands of a responsible teacher. They showed the value of the cinematograph film in photomicrography and in demonstrating those types of motion too slow to be watched normally. The film of wheatlands in East Anglia, too, was a good lesson in economic geography and rural science, and demonstrated the possibilities of the film in transporting a class to the actual scene of action, which otherwise has to be done, rather inefficiently, by laborious verbal teaching and much reading. Such films indicate the lines along which it is to be hoped the cinematograph in education will develop. On the other hand, certain films shown depicted the dangers inherent in the cinematograph