

and by the volume "Life by the Sea Shore, an Introduction to Natural History" (1901). Although Dr. Newbigin then turned to the rapidly developing subject of geography, she maintained contact with biology in the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, of which she had been secretary and president, and as extra-mural lecturer on biology at the Womens' Medical School in Edinburgh until 1916. She published a work on animal geography (1913), and over a long period acted as assistant editor of the *Journal of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society*.

Dr. Newbigin brought her knowledge of environmental influences to bear upon the study of human activities with great effect; and her numerous geographical writings possess special value because of this. Her earlier books, which were of a general character, included "Tillers of the Ground" (1910); "Modern Geography" (1911); and "Man and his Conquest of Nature" (1912). She travelled widely, and methodically built her careful observations into a series of valuable regional interpretations. Of special note are her works on southern Europe:

"Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems" (1915); "Mediterranean Lands" (1924); and "Southern Europe" (1932).

As a lecturer in geography, Dr. Newbigin was in great demand, and in recent years she gave regular courses at Bedford College, University of London. She rarely missed an International Geographical Congress, and she attended the meetings of the British Association regularly, presiding over Section E in 1922. She was the recipient of the Back Grant of the Royal Geographical Society in 1921 and the Livingstone Gold Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1923. The latter Society is especially in her debt for her loyal service and her unremitting labour in maintaining the high standard of its *Magazine* for thirty-two years.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. H. Glauert, F.R.S., principal scientific officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, author of numerous papers on aerodynamics, on August 4, aged forty-one years.

## News and Views

### Prof. E. G. Coker's Retirement

PROF. E. G. COKER, who is this year retiring from the Kennedy chair of civil and mechanical engineering in University College, London, was appointed to his chair not long before the outbreak of the War, which found him in Australia, where he had gone as president of Section G of the British Association. In common with a number of other scientific workers, he had some unexpectedly exciting experiences on that occasion, narrowly escaping capture by the German cruiser *Emden*. Prof. Coker went to University College from the City and Guilds Technical College, Finsbury, where for some years he was the colleague of Silvanus Thompson, who was associated with some of his earlier work on polarised light. Before that time he was associate professor of civil engineering in McGill University, Montreal. Prof. Coker's name is chiefly associated, in the minds of engineers, with the direct exploration of stress in machines and structures by means of polarised light, a field which he has made peculiarly his own and which has been largely built up by his own efforts.

THE double-refraction caused by stress in transparent materials was discovered more than a century ago by Sir David Brewster, and the suggestion that this effect might be used to discover the stress-distribution in such materials was actually made by Brewster himself. Attempts in this direction were undertaken at various times, for example, by Clerk Maxwell, Carus Wilson, Mesnager and others, while the laws underlying the phenomenon have been investigated by a number of physicists. It was left to Coker, however, to develop the method, and to make it, by a variety of skilful contrivances (in particular his lateral extensometer), into a really

practical one. To him is due also the use of an easily workable material like celluloid for such investigations. By this means he has been able to solve a number of important problems relating to contact stresses, gears, test-pieces, architectural structures, etc., where mathematical analysis proved either inadequate or too complicated. For this work he created, at University College, a first-class research laboratory, which has attained a world-wide reputation. His recent treatise on "Photo-Elasticity", written in collaboration with his colleague, Prof. Filon, gives an exhaustive account of this subject, and embodies the results of a quarter of a century of continuous research. It is much to be hoped that this work will not be interrupted by Prof. Coker's retirement, and that he will continue, with unabated vigour and activity, to enrich engineering science in his chosen field.

### New Vice-Chancellor: University of Melbourne

MR. R. E. Priestley, fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and Secretary General of the Faculties of the University, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. Mr. Priestley was educated at Tewkesbury Grammar School and entered the University of Bristol in 1905. In 1907 he joined Shackleton's *Nimrod* Expedition as geologist. On returning from the Antarctic in 1909 he spent a year as a research student at the University of Sydney, working up the results of the expedition with Prof. Edgworth David. The sudden illness of Scott's geologist led to Priestley joining Scott's last expedition one week before the boat left Sydney. From 1910 until 1913 he was scientific observer with the northern party, first at Cape Adair, then at Terra Nova Bay. During the latter period