

will inspire further benefactors to give it the means to go forward with the work of placing the higher branches of knowledge within the reach of "persons of the poorer classes".

Portrait of Sir Flinders Petrie, F.R.S.

ON Sir Flinders Petrie's retirement from the Edwards professorship of Egyptology in the University of London, many of his friends and admirers desired to commemorate his long tenure of that chair. It was decided that the memorial should take the form of a portrait of the great pioneer in the science of archaeology, to be presented to University College, where he had worked for forty years. An appeal for subscriptions met with a generous response and, on Sir Flinders Petrie's visit to England in the summer, the portrait was painted by Mr. Philip de Laszlo. On November 23, Sir Henry Lyons made the presentation to the College on behalf of the subscribers, of whom a large number were present; Sir John Rose Bradford accepted the gift on behalf of the College. The portrait is an exceptionally fine example of the artist's work and a striking likeness of Sir Flinders Petrie.

IN presenting the portrait to the College, Sir Henry Lyons referred to the debt to Sir Flinders Petrie of archaeology in general and Egyptology in particular. He recalled that during the forty years Sir Flinders has been connected with the College, he has combined the duties of teaching with work in the field, at first and for long in Egypt and afterwards in Palestine. He has applied the method of exact measurement and scientific observation, which he employed in the investigation of the ancient monuments of Great Britain, to the study of the monuments of Giza, so that not only have his measurements of the pyramids been the first observations of exact value, but they have been fully confirmed by the measurements made much later under far more favourable conditions by the Survey of Egypt. From both Egypt and Palestine he has brought back a harvest of material objects and recorded observation, of which the prompt publication was his first care. In the application of scientific methods to archaeological investigation he has been a pioneer and his methods have been adopted and extended by those whom he himself had trained and by others. Here Sir Henry might well have referred to Sir Flinders' elaboration of the system of sequence dating which has remained the principal means of scientific chronological analysis in archaeological investigation ever since he first formulated it, and is largely responsible for the great advances in recent archaeological exploration in the near East to which Sir Henry went on to allude. All archaeologists will cordially concur in the note on which he concluded, when he spoke of Sir Flinders as an inspiring teacher, who has brought home to a wider public "the interest and importance of Ancient Egypt in human history", and as one who well merits this record in the College in which he has worked.

Dr. C. E. Guillaume

THE degree of doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Paris was conferred on M. C. E. Guillaume, director of the Bureau international des Poids et Mesures at Sèvres, on November 10, in course of the annual meeting held at the reopening of the University, with M. Charlety, the rector, presiding. The inauguration address was read by the dean of the faculty of sciences, Prof. Maurain. M. Guillaume, a Swiss citizen, has been doing work in France for nearly fifty years at the Bureau international, first as assistant, and for twenty years as director. A fervent metrologist, M. Guillaume has fostered every improvement likely to increase the accuracy of the measurements. His painstaking investigations in thermometry and in the measurement of length made him look for possibilities of diminishing the effects of temperature. Hence followed a laborious research on special alloys, which led to the discovery of his famous 'invar', a nickel alloy of which the coefficient of expansion is practically negligible. But metrology did not monopolise M. Guillaume's thoughts. A good many people have enjoyed reading his "Initiation à la mécanique", a pleasant booklet reflecting the leading ideas in physics at the beginning of the twentieth century. Besides purely scientific work, M. Guillaume has done much to further the use of the metric system, as a means to ensure international collaboration. As the Director of the Bureau international, created in 1875, M. Guillaume has had the satisfaction of seeing the system adopted even in oriental countries such as the U.S.S.R., Japan, Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, Siam, Iraq and China. His report to the International Conference of Weights and Measures in 1933 dealt with the "Recent Progress of the Metric System" and raises the hope of the early and universal adoption of this system.

Broadcast of the Royal Wedding Service

THE broadcasting of the wedding service of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent and Princess Marina from Westminster Abbey on November 29 was described by the *Times* wireless correspondent as an unparalleled technical feat of the B.B.C. engineers. All who listened on this occasion will agree completely with this opinion; while those whom circumstances compelled to wait for the re-broadcast of the ceremony in the evening programme will have been equally impressed by the very high quality of the recording and reproducing technique. A brief description of the technical arrangements adopted for this occasion was given in *World Radio* of November 23, from which it is quite clear that the wireless listener was in a much better position, so far as hearing was concerned, than were probably most of those who attended the wedding service in the Abbey itself.

FOURTEEN microphone circuits were installed in suitable locations in and near the Abbey, and were connected to a control room installed in the crypt.