

News and Views

Lord Bledisloe and New Zealand

ON many occasions since Lord Bledisloe became Governor-General of New Zealand in 1930, we have referred to stimulating addresses delivered by him on applications of scientific knowledge to agricultural and other industries, and to economic and social problems. In all his addresses, the great importance of research has been emphasised and the results of investigations carried out in Great Britain and in other parts of the world have been brought before the people of the Dominion. This has been particularly the case with agriculture, on which subject Lord Bledisloe is himself a high authority. It is gratifying, therefore, to learn from a message from the Wellington (N.Z.) correspondent of *The Times*, that more than 54,000 dairy-farmers have subscribed to an address from their industry recording his thorough understanding of their problems and his assistance in solving them. Scientific societies and the newspaper Press in the Dominion have similarly expressed grateful appreciation of his wise counsel and practical guidance.

Lord Rutherford's Portrait for New Zealand

DURING his term of office, which closes on March 15, Lord Bledisloe has lost no opportunity of emphasising the important part which science has played, and must continue to play, in the development of the country. The most distinguished scientific worker which New Zealand has produced is unquestionably Lord Rutherford, whose name will always be associated with the advance of atomic physics, and Lord Bledisloe proposes to mark the conclusion of his five years of office by presenting to the Dominion a portrait of Lord Rutherford, to be hung in the new National Art Gallery at Wellington. By a fortunate coincidence, a distinguished portrait painter who is also a New Zealander, Mr. Oswald Birley, was available for the task. Mr. Birley painted a portrait of Lord Rutherford which was presented to the Royal Institution by fellows of the Royal Society some three years ago. Lord Bledisloe therefore commissioned Mr. Birley to paint a replica, which has been sent to New Zealand. The presentation will be made at a civic reception to Lord and Lady Bledisloe to be held in the Town Hall, Wellington, on the eve of their departure for England. By this public-spirited action, Lord Bledisloe has given New Zealand a striking picture, by one of her own artists, of a son who has achieved an international reputation in the field of science.

Death of Lady Dewar

THE death on January 7 of Lady Dewar, widow of Sir James Dewar, was reported to the members of the Royal Institution at a recent general meeting. Lady Dewar's long and intimate association with the Institution began in 1887 when her husband, already the Fullerian professor of chemistry, succeeded Tyndall as superintendent of the House. From that

time until Sir James Dewar's death in 1923, she was the hostess of the Institution, and the regard in which her memory is held by a wide circle of members and friends is expressed in the words of Sir William Bragg at the general meeting. Sir William said that her death "had broken a precious link connecting the present times with those of the past in which Sir James Dewar had made the Royal Institution such a powerful agent of research and exposition. Not only had Lady Dewar been the true helper of Sir James in his work: she had, as many would gratefully remember, been a most able and kindly hostess to the scientists and others who flocked to see her husband and the Institution over which he presided. The members of the Institution would gladly acknowledge their debt to Lady Dewar, and for ever keep her name in appreciation and affectionate remembrance."

Lady Dewar's Bequests for Science

A BEQUEST by the late Lady Dewar is announced of ten thousand pounds to the Royal Institution. The gift is free of duty, and is made on the condition that the income is to be used for the purpose of furthering scientific research in the Institution and as a permanent memorial to the work there of her husband, Sir James Dewar. Lady Dewar has also left to the Royal Institution her husband's medals and diplomas and his scientific papers and apparatus, together with a sum of money to provide accommodation for them. A large part of his apparatus, in particular that used in his low temperature researches, has remained at Albemarle Street since his death, and in recent years has been displayed in the Institution's collection. The papers and objects now presented are additional material likely to be of great historic value to the Institution in relation to the period of Dewar's professorship. Lady Dewar's other bequests include £4,000 to the Royal Society's Mond Laboratory at Cambridge and £3,000 to the Royal Academy of Music. The residue of the estate is left for the furtherance of research in chemistry and physics at one of the Universities of Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Glasgow or Aberdeen, or for the assistance of bacteriological research in connexion with the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Archæological Discovery in Honduras

AN important discovery in the ruins of Copan, the ancient city of the Maya in Honduras, is reported in *The Times* of February 21. An expedition of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, now working at Copan under Dr. Gustav Stronsvik, in exposing a large stone staircase, has found an extensive system of canals and sewers connecting a massive series of buildings, which is now underground. The buildings thus revealed include amphitheatres in which are monoliths and large statues in stone. A statue of a warrior is described as of gigantic size. Other