

## News and Views

## Award of the Mueller Medal to Dr. R. J. Tillyard, F.R.S.

THE Mueller Medal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science was presented to Dr. R. J. Tillyard, Chief Commonwealth Entomologist, at the recent annual meeting of the Royal Society of Australia held at Canberra. This medal, which was established in 1896 by a group of scientific workers in Victoria, commemorates the services to Australia of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, and is the premier award in the gift of Australian men of science. According to the *Canberra Times*, Dr. A. B. Walkom, general secretary of the Australian and New Zealand Association, made the presentation. In his address, he recalled the names of previous recipients of the Mueller Medal, among whom have been J. H. Maiden, Leonard Cockayne, W. Howchin, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Edgeworth David and Prof. Wood Jones. Dr. Tillyard, he said, has many notable investigations to his credit; in particular, he has studied the biology of the dragonflies, the wing venation of insects and the determination and classification of fossil insects. He has also published a valuable and comprehensive textbook on the insects of Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Tillyard's work in entomology, in both New Zealand and Australia, has been of outstanding value, establishing principles and facts of wide interest and great importance.

## Presentation to Sir Denison Ross

At the recent annual anniversary general meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, Sir Denison Ross, director of the School of Oriental Studies, London, was presented with the Triennial Gold Medal for his work in forwarding Oriental research during the period concerned. The presentation was made by H.E. The Iranian Minister, a very happy arrangement as a great deal of Sir Denison Ross's time has been devoted to the study of the Persian language and Iranian dialects. He was the guest of the Iranian Government on the occasion of the festivities held in Iran, in honour of the millenary of Firdausi, the national poet of Persia. The gold medal trust was founded in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The selection of the recipient is made by a special committee appointed by the president and council of the Royal Asiatic Society for the purpose, from among their number. The previous recipients have included Prof. E. B. Cowell, E. W. West, Sir William Pope, V. A. Smith, A. H. Sayce, D. S. Margoliouth and Sir Aurel Stein. In mentioning some of Sir Denison's services, the Iranian Minister dwelt on his love of Persian studies and his constant travel in the East. He thought that Sir Denison must own a special kind of magic carpet from the "Arabian Nights", for he attended the Firdausi celebrations in Teheran and elsewhere, but was able to reach London in time for Firdausi week here. His studies had kept alight the torch of Oriental learning in England and India.

## U.S. National Academy: Elections and Awards

It is announced by Science Service, Washington, D.C., that the following have been elected members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences: Dr. N. L. Bowen, Carnegie Institution of Washington, geologist; Dr. C. M. Child, the University of Chicago, zoologist; Dr. G. E. Coghill, Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, chemist; Dr. James Ewing, Memorial Hospital, New York City, pathologist; Dr. M. L. Fernald, Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass., botanist; Dr. Harvey Fletcher, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City, physicist; Dr. Ross Aiken Gortner, University of Minnesota, chemist; Dr. E. A. Hooton, Harvard University, anthropologist; Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, aerodynamist; Dr. Walter S. Hunter, Clark University, psychologist; Dr. Dunham Jackson, University of Minnesota, mathematician; Dr. Chester R. Longwell, Yale University, geologist; Dr. H. C. Urey, Columbia University, chemist; Dr. J. H. Van Vleck, Harvard University, physicist. New foreign associates of the Academy are: Dr. J. S. Haldane, director of the Mining Research Laboratory and honorary professor in the University of Birmingham, and Dr. Jules Bordet, director of the Pasteur Institute, Brussels. Dr. Frank R. Lillie has been elected president of the National Academy of Sciences for a term of four years. He is dean of the division of biological sciences at the University of Chicago and president of the Woods Hole, Mass., Marine Biological Laboratory.

THE following awards have been made by the National Academy of Sciences: *Public Welfare Medal* to Prof. August Vollmer, of the University of California, for his work in police administration; *Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal* to Dr. James P. Chaplin, of the American Museum of Natural History, for his work on the birds of the Belgian Congo; *Henry Draper Medal* for astronomy to Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the Astrophysical Laboratory at Victoria, British Columbia; and *Agassiz Medal* for oceanography to Prof. Haakon Rasberg Gran, of Oslo.

## "Backward Tracts" in the India Bill

FURTHER consideration was given to the position of the aboriginal tribes under the provisions of the India Bill in Committee of the House of Commons on May 9 and 13, when an amendment to Clause 6 was moved by Mr. Cadogan (Finchley, U.) proposing the extension and modification of the excluded and partially excluded areas named in the schedule thereto. The "anthropologists", as Mr. Winston Churchill happily termed the supporters of the amendment, urged with vigour the necessity for a much wider application of the principle of exclusion, by which jungle and hill peoples living under tribal conditions remain outside the jurisdiction and administration of the Provincial Governments and are

entrusted to the care of the Federal Governor. It is evident that while the Government is in sympathy with the principle, difficulty has been felt as to the limits to which its application is a practical possibility. The Under Secretary to the India Office (Mr. Butler) explained what these difficulties are. While mainly administrative, especially where 'pockets' of aboriginal tribes live among a more advanced population, they also entail the possibility of a retrocession where some cultural advance has already been made.

LORD EUSTACE PERCY pointed out that it had not been possible to provide the House with the detailed information requisite for a decision on the detailed amendment of the schedule; and it is probable that the wisest course was followed in the adoption of the suggestion of the Attorney General (Sir T. Inskip) to withdraw the question from immediate discussion by the omission of the schedule from the Bill and the preparation of an Order in Council for submission to the House after all necessary information had been obtained. Members thus have the assurance that they will at least be in full possession of the facts, and the "anthropologists" will be in a position to gauge how far it will be possible to avert the danger of oppression, which is feared, through clash of culture, under the Provincial Governments. In the meantime, the important pronouncement has been made that the policy of the Government in dealing with the question of the aboriginal tribes is assimilation rather than segregation.

#### Aborigines and the Law in Australia

It is evident that public opinion in Australia has been stirred by recent decisions of the courts in criminal cases in which aborigines have been implicated. Two aborigines undergoing sentence for killing a goat have been released from Port Augusta gaol, according to an Adelaide cable in *The Times* of May 7, by the Governor of South Australia, Major-General Sir William Dugan, in response to a petition from the Aborigines Friends Association. It was stated that the crime was committed under stress of great hunger and in ignorance of the white man's laws. This decision has renewed interest in the case of the two aborigines recently condemned to ten years imprisonment for killing a fellow-tribesman who had revealed ritual secrets. No doubt an effort will be made to secure some modification of the decision in this case also. These, unfortunately, are not the only cases affecting aborigines which have attained notoriety and caused misgiving as to the judicial procedure in dealing with crimes and misdemeanours of aborigines. They point to the need of a special tribunal and a penal code *ad hoc*, which will take fully into account aboriginal culture and outlook on life, property and society. It is surely anomalous that while the Federal Government, for example, fosters continued tribal existence by securing to the aborigines the rights of access to traditional hunting grounds and water-holes, it forces them to abrogate tribal custom by submission to a

code and tribunal appropriate to the civilisation and outlook of the white man.

#### Excavations at Tell el-Amarna

IN the season's excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society at Tell el-Amarna, which have recently been brought to a close, the most notable achievement has been the completion of the exploration of the great palace of Akhenaten, or rather of what was left of it by the spoilers by whom it was destroyed after the collapse of the Aton religion and the abandonment of the city. The building was of a remarkable size. It has now been shown by the recent excavation to have been little less than a kilometre in length. At the south end was a vast hall in which the roof was supported by six hundred square pillars of mud brick. The walls had been covered with faience tiles in green with a characteristic decoration of inlaid white daisies. Among the relics found in this building were a large number of fragments of huge statues. These evidently had occupied a position along a plaster pavement leading to a columned hall. They had apparently stood on the oblong bases which were found at intervals along this passage. It is to be concluded that the statues were hacked to pieces when the palace was destroyed. Near the palace entrance was a well-preserved copper crowbar, which, no doubt, had been used as one of the implements of destruction. Among the examples of the sculpture, for which the site is now famous, this season's finds included a remarkably fine head of Akhenaten executed in black granite.

#### Bronze Age Burials near Bournemouth

A REMARKABLE example of a bronze age barrow is now in course of excavation at Dudsbury, near Bournemouth. Its method of construction is believed to be unique in the British Isles. Beneath the sand and gravel forming the surface of the heath on which it is situated, it is stated by a correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of April 26, that Col. C. D. Drew, who is conducting the excavation, has found a mound of turves, three feet thick at the centre. No skeletal remains were found in this mound, which constitutes the primary interment. For this, the acidity of the soil is held responsible, all animal remains being destroyed by its action. A secondary interment took place in the top of this mound, and above it was piled a further six feet of turves with a top dressing of other soil. In the secondary interment was an inverted cinerary urn which had covered the ashes of the incinerated body. It is of Middle Bronze Age type (c. 2,000-1,500 B.C.) and has an ornamentation of three horizontal grooves running around it and finger-nail marks on the rim. It is about 16 inches high and 12 inches in diameter. It will be deposited eventually in the Dorchester Museum.

#### Progress in Aero-Engine Design

THE Bristol Aeroplane Company has just completed the official tests of an improved engine, to replace the standard Pegasus III air-cooled radial