

His expert advice was sought by many committees—such as the Fuel Research Board, the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the University Grants Committee, and the Carnegie Trust—to all of which he gave generous and conscientious service. He was awarded the Davy Medal of the Royal Society in 1926. The Royal Society of Edinburgh honoured him at the beginning of his career with the Makdougall-Brisbane Medal in 1895, and at its close with the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in 1933. He was an LL.D. of the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh.

Although he retired from the Edinburgh chair of chemistry in 1928, Sir James Walker maintained for several years an active interest in his old department, visiting it almost daily and participating in a most stimulating manner in its various research activities. His many friends hoped that this Indian summer of his life-time would prove of long duration, but it was not to be. As his body weakened, his visits became regretfully rarer, but the spirit of James Walker was going strong to the very end.

Walker was a man of singular simplicity and charm, working unselfishly always for his department and for his profession. He possessed a remarkable gift

for languages (for years he abstracted Russian papers for the *Journal of the Chemical Society*) and an intense love of music. He is survived by his wife, the daughter of Lieut.-Colonel W. Sedgwick of Godalming, whom he met as a research student at University College, and by a son, Dr. Frederick Walker, now lecturer in geology in the University of St. Andrews. His scientific progeny, however, including not only those who have studied directly under him but also those who have been inspired by his writings, are legion. Wherever physical chemistry is mentioned among English-speaking chemists, the first name that springs to mind is that of Sir James Walker.

JAMES KENDALL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. Charles E. St. John, research associate at the Mount Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, and associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, on April 26, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. Hugo de Vries, For.Mem.R.S., emeritus professor of botany in the University of Amsterdam, on May 20, aged eighty-seven years.

### News and Views

Sir Robert Muir, F.R.S.

By common consent, Sir Robert Muir, professor of pathology in the University of Glasgow, is the leader of British pathology, as was shown by the enthusiasm with which his colleagues gathered together last year to testify to their respect and affection for him and to celebrate his seventieth birthday. The recent award to him of the Lister Medal is a proper recognition of the value of his work to surgeons as well as pathologists. This Medal is awarded triennially, irrespective of nationality, for distinguished contributions to surgical science; it consists of a bronze medal and a sum of £500. Sir Robert is an old-fashioned all-round pathologist, morbid anatomist and bacteriologist, and his own researches have covered a wide field—anæmia, immunity, tumours, iron metabolism, etc. He has illuminated any subject to which he has been drawn to pay attention, and his comprehensive knowledge has been spread beyond his immediate pupils by two popular textbooks on pathology and bacteriology, the latter originally written in partnership with his friend James Ritchie, and by the number of his pupils who hold chairs and other positions of distinction in pathology in Britain and the Dominions, where they no doubt reproduce some of his teaching though they can scarcely duplicate his personality.

Prof. P. Zeeman, For.Mem.R.S.

PROF. PIETER ZEEMAN is seventy years of age on May 25 and in consequence retires from the professorship of physics and directorship of the Physical Institute of the University of Amsterdam. In order to allow his many admirers an opportunity of showing

their appreciation of his important contributions to science, it is proposed that a jubilee volume be published, to which thirty distinguished physicists have already promised contributions, and that a Zeeman fund, a Zeeman medal or some similar method of encouraging research be founded. A general committee with representatives from all parts of the world has been formed with an executive committee under Prof. J. D. van der Waals, Jr., with T. L. de Bruin, of 33 Gerard Terborgstraat, Amsterdam S. as secretary and treasurer to carry out the proposals, and an appeal is now made for funds in support of the scheme. Pieter Zeeman was born in Zeeland at the mouth of the Schele and was educated at the University of Leyden. In 1890, when twenty-five years of age, he was appointed assistant on the physics staff, and held the post of *privatdozent* when six years afterwards he detected the effect of a magnetic field on the light sent out by a source placed in the field, each line of the normal spectrum being split up into a number of components each polarised and in general displaced. Prof. Lorentz based his explanation on the motion of electrons in the field, but this has been replaced by the quantum theory of the permitted energy of the emitter, which explains the anomalous, as well as the normal, effect. Zeeman was appointed professor of physics in the University of Amsterdam in 1900, was Nobel laureate in physics in 1902, was elected a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1921 and awarded the Rumford Medal of the Society in 1922. The most important of Zeeman's later work was concerned with the convection of light by moving liquids and solids. He found that its magnitude depends on the dispersion