

News and Views

Dr. Bernard Smith and the Geological Survey

DR. BERNARD SMITH, who has been appointed to succeed Sir John Flett as director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, joined the Survey as a geologist in 1906, became district geologist of the Cumberland Division in 1920, and was appointed assistant to the director in 1931. In 1902 he had entered Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where his uncle, Charles Smith, author of many well-known books on mathematical subjects, was master. Taking a first class in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos and gaining the Harkness Scholarship for geology in 1906, he maintained his College's fine record for producing first class geologists. The Harkness Scholarship has been won by Sidney men six times since 1893. Bernard Smith's work on the Geological Survey and his researches pursued during vacations earned him a Geological Society award in 1913 and the Bigsby Medal of that Society in 1927. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1933. He is the author of many papers on stratigraphy and on the glaciology of Cumberland and North Wales, of many contributions to the memoirs of the Geological Survey, and of a well-known textbook of physical geography. His work on the Survey, particularly on the coal and iron-ore deposits of Cumberland, has brought him into contact with practical problems in which the Geological Survey and its Museum are so closely concerned. We may congratulate him on being selected to direct the progress of the Geological Survey in the first year of the second centenary of its work, and it may augur well that the new director, chosen at this historic moment in the life of the Survey, bears the name of the "father of English Geology", William Smith.

Prof. A. P. Karpinsky and the U.S.S.R. Academy

AMONG the delegates present at the recent celebration of the centenary of the Geological Survey of Great Britain was the veteran geologist, Prof. A. P. Karpinsky, president of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Leningrad. Prof. Karpinsky is well known to British geologists, and was elected a foreign correspondent of the Geological Society of London so long ago as 1898. He became a foreign member of the Society in 1901 and received the Wollaston Medal in 1916. He is now in his ninetieth year, and has been a member of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad for nearly fifty years, and its president for twenty years. The honorary members of this Academy include Sir F. G. Hopkins, Lord Rutherford, Sir Charles Sherrington and Sir Robert Hadfield. At a small luncheon given by Sir Robert Hadfield on July 10 in honour of Prof. Karpinsky, at which there were present, among others, Sir F. G. Hopkins, president of the Royal Society, Prof. W. W. Watts, president of the British Association, and Sir John Flett, director of the Geological Survey, Sir Robert

recalled that Faraday was an honorary member of the Academy. He added: "As a metallurgist, I can speak with the highest approval of the splendid work of the two famous Russian scientists of the past, Demetri Tchernoff, who I believe was a member of the Academy, and Sergius Kern. From the research work of both these metallurgists I greatly benefited in my younger days." After the luncheon, the guests had an opportunity of seeing some interesting exhibits brought together by Sir Robert Hadfield, including a model in modern rustless steel of the famous iron pillar at Delhi, Mr. F. J. Halnon's bronze group symbolising "A Legend of Metallurgy", and objects illustrating results of investigations of specimens of steel made by Faraday at the Royal Institution between the years 1819 and 1824 and described in Sir Robert's book "Faraday and his Metallurgical Researches".

South African Protectorates and British Pledges

MINISTERS of the Crown have shown a somewhat tardy but earnest desire to allay public uneasiness lest further steps should be taken to carry out the undertaking of the British Government to hand over the three South African native protectorates to the tutelage of the Union Government without any opportunity being given for the expression of the views of the native population on the proposed transfer. The ground for this fear has now been removed by an official reaffirmation of the pledges given when the South Africa Bill passed through Parliament. In the *aide-memoire*, which was handed to the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on May 15 last, now published as a White Paper (Cmd. 4948), explicit reference is made to the undertakings that the inhabitants, both native and European, of the Protectorates would be consulted, and Parliament given an opportunity to express its views, as precedent conditions which must be observed before transfer takes place. This memorandum goes on to state that the Government has expressed its view to General Herzog that not only is the time not ripe for such consultation of the inhabitants, but also that the information at its disposal indicates that native opinion in the territories is very strongly opposed to the transfer. This statement will bring reassurance to those who have felt apprehension at the way in which the situation has appeared to be developing in the last twelve months, and also it will give them no little gratification by its firm, but at the same time conciliatory, attitude in asking for the co-operation of the Union Government with the administration of the territories during the next few years in a policy which will convince the native population that the Union Government is working with the local administration in a real and generous desire to develop and improve conditions in the territories.