

## News and Views

### The Right Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore

ARCHÆOLOGISTS, while congratulating Mr. Ormsby-Gore on his promotion in the ranks of His Majesty's Ministry, will feel that, in his appointment to succeed Mr. J. H. Thomas as Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Empire gains what archæology can ill afford to lose. No more suitable appointment to the Colonial Office could have been made; but as First Commissioner of Works Mr. Ormsby-Gore has been responsible for the protection of ancient monuments, and to that duty of his department has brought a knowledge of archæology and an enthusiasm for the surviving relics of the past in Britain that has been an inspiration to the members of his staff and an encouragement to all who are interested in the scientific investigation and the preservation of sites and structures of archæological or historic interest in Great Britain. Of the work—much of it of first-rate scientific importance—which has been carried out under the supervision and with the co-operation of the Office of Works during his tenure of office, it is unnecessary to speak here in detail; but by his personal activities, more especially in his efforts to secure the preservation of the unique character of Avebury and its surroundings, and in the initiation of the excellent series of guides to ancient monuments, of which he has already published two volumes, while a third is in an advanced stage of preparation, he has widely extended public interest in this class of evidence of the nation's cultural development. He leaves behind him a well-established tradition of official sympathy with, and co-operation in, the aims of archæological studies in Great Britain, which will not readily be allowed to die out.

MR. ORMSBY-GORE takes up his duties as Secretary of State for the Colonies at a moment when many problems, actual and potential, have to be faced. Not only has he the advantage of his experience in a previous administration, but also he brings to his task a personal knowledge of British Colonies and their problems such as has been possessed by no previous holder of the office. As Under-Secretary he travelled widely in all the more important of the Colonial possessions of the Empire and gained a first-hand knowledge of local conditions, more especially in Africa, which cannot fail to carry the weight of authority in the discussions of matters of momentous interest which are imminent. Mr. Ormsby-Gore's readiness in the past to appreciate the contribution of scientific studies in the solution of the practical problems of administrator, settler and native alike, affords an assurance that no resource will be overlooked in helping the Colonies in their efforts to recover from the effects of the economic crisis and the unrest to which it has given rise.

### Ancient Monuments in Southern England

THE second of Mr. Ormsby-Gore's guides to the ancient monuments, covering the area south of the Thames, includes the most impressive, as well as some of the most important, relics of the prehistoric period ("Illustrated Regional Guides to Ancient Monuments under the Ownership or Guardianship of His Majesty's Office of Works: Vol. 2, Southern England." London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1936. Pp. 86. 1s. net). Avebury, Stonehenge and Maiden Castle alone would serve to make this a volume of outstanding interest in the series; and in the subsequent periods its material is little less of note in its numerous aspects: to the important Roman fortresses of Richborough and Porchester must be added from the medieval period the castles of Dover and Carisbrook and the special attractions of the beautiful castle of Restormel in Cornwall and romantic Tintagel, while as an example of artistic achievement in a later age, the Queen's House at Greenwich by Inigo Jones is unrivalled in its way. Mr. Ormsby-Gore, following in general line the plan of his earlier volume, has provided for the prehistoric period a sketch of the cultures of the neolithic, bronze and iron ages, as well as of the period of Roman occupation, in which the monuments are called upon to illustrate and support the relation. Here the results of much recent research and discovery are digested and presented with a lucidity which cannot fail to hold and interest the least instructed visitor. The medieval period is treated under the two headings of Anglo-Saxon and Norman, and in this and the later sections history appears only to serve as a background. Mr. Ormsby-Gore has a gift of scholarship without pedantry. His second volume deserves the success which his first has already earned.

### Archæological Discoveries in India and the Far East

DISCOVERIES of great interest to archæologists and students of the religious cults of India have been made in recent excavations carried out by the Archæological Department of the Government of India at Raigir in the District of Patna, the ancient Rajagriha, in an area adjoining the Maniyar Math, a site investigated some thirty years ago by Sir John Marshall and the late Dr. Bloch. Their investigations brought to light a circular brick structure, which was dated by its stucco figures in bas-relief at about A.D. 500. The nature of this structure has been the subject of much speculation. According to a statement of Mr. J. F. Blakiston, director-general of archæology in India, reported in *The Times* of June 1, two earlier strata of buildings underlying the foundations of the circular structure have now been discovered, which carry the dating of the site back at least two or three centuries earlier. A large quantity of pottery and terra-cotta objects, which seems to