

### Mr. Alan A. Blakeway

WE regret to record the death, at the age of thirty-eight years, of Mr. Alan Blakeway, director of the British School of Archæology at Athens, which took place at Winchester after an operation on October 9.

Alan Albert Antisdell Blakeway was a son of the late Charles Edward Blakeway, Archdeacon of Stafford, and was educated at Shrewsbury School and Christ Church, Oxford. After taking first class honours in the school of *Literæ Humaniores*, he was for six years a master at Winchester, and then in 1931 was elected a fellow and tutor in ancient history of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. In May last, on the death of Humfry Payne, he accepted the directorship of the British School for the time being. His death took place on the eve of the opening of the exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, which celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the School, and in the preparations for which both he and Payne had taken a very active part.

Blakeway had excavated on behalf of the School both at Perachora and in Crete, and he had for long been engaged in research on the commercial relations of Greece with Italy, Sicily and France in the eighth and seventh centuries B.C. The first fruits of his researches, which he had begun to publish in the *Annual* of the School and the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, had already won recognition as of outstanding merit.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. J. W. Folsom, senior entomologist in the United States Department of Agriculture, an authority on cotton insects, on September 24, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. George Forbes, F.R.S., formerly professor of natural philosophy in Anderson's College, Glasgow, on October 22, aged eighty-seven years.

Prof. F. Hendrickx, emeritus professor of veterinary medicine in the Belgian Veterinary School.

Dr. S. M. Kintner, vice-president in charge of engineering of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, formerly professor of electrical engineering in the University of Pittsburgh, an authority on radio engineering, on September 28, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. W. A. Parks, F.R.S., professor of geology in the University of Toronto, on October 3.

Dr. E. E. Prince, former Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, Canada, an authority on the life-histories of marine food fishes, aged seventy-eight years.

Dr. Gustaf Schack-Sommer, a pioneer in the sugar-beet industry in Great Britain, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. G. Sergi, emeritus professor of anthropology in the University of Rome, aged ninety-five years.

Prof. W. J. Sollas, F.R.S., professor of geology in the University of Oxford, on October 20, aged eighty-seven years.

## News and Views

### Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown

ALFRED REGINALD RADCLIFFE-BROWN, who has been appointed to the recently instituted professorship of social anthropology in the University of Oxford (see p. 772), was educated at the King Edward High School, Birmingham, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was elected to the Anthony Wilkin scholarship in ethnology, carrying out ethnographical investigations in the Andaman Islands. He was a fellow of Trinity College from 1908 until 1914, and a lecturer in ethnology in the University of London in 1909-10. After the Great War, Prof. Radcliffe-Brown held an educational post in Tonga for a time and was afterwards on the staff of the Transvaal Museum until he was appointed to the chair of social anthropology in the University of Cape Town in 1921. This he held until his appointment as professor of anthropology in the University of Sydney. Here, as at Cape Town, he was active in promoting ethnographical work in the field, and the present activity of anthropological studies in Australia is largely due to his enthusiasm and power of organization. In 1931 he left Australia to join the staff of the University of Chicago. Prof. Radcliffe-Brown was president of the Anthropological Section of the British Association at the centenary meeting in London in 1931, when he dealt in his presidential

address with the methods of investigation in social anthropology, of which he had already given a practical demonstration in "The Andaman Islanders", which is, up to the present, his most important and considerable contribution to anthropological literature.

### National Museum of Wales and Welsh Cultural Studies

IMPORTANT developments in policy and organization, made possible by an increased Treasury grant, were announced in the annual report of Council of the National Museum of Wales, which was presented at the court of governors held at Cardiff on October 23, when Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, vice-president of Council, was in the chair. An immediate addition of £1,500 per annum, to be followed by two increments of £750 per annum, will raise the Treasury grant to £20,000 per annum in all by April 1, 1938. Of the additional income, the Council proposes to set aside part to form a fund for the purchase of collections of outstanding importance, otherwise beyond the normal resources of the Museum. Of even greater interest, however, is the second development, to which effect has already been given. The Sub-Department of Folk Culture and Industries within the Department of Archæology has been advanced to the status of a full department. It will cover the

national ethnography and cultural history of Wales from the Act of Union of 1536 to the present day, with the proviso that the modern industrial civilization will not be covered, save to a limited degree. It will, therefore, concern itself with the trades and crafts, the ways of living and working, the domestic and industrial environment, and the clothes and customs of past generations of all ranks of the Welsh people. The enhanced status of this section of the National Museum is no more than due recognition of the value of a piece of work to which much time and research have been devoted by the responsible authorities, and from which important studies have already accrued. The collections at Cardiff illustrating the life and culture of the Welsh people—even more now that this opportunity for expansion is afforded them—provoke regret that no similar unitary collection deals in like manner with the folk history of England.

#### Future of Liquid Fuel Production

SIR PHILIP DAWSON'S presidential address to the Institute of Fuel on October 15 entitled "Road, Rail and Fuel" emphasized our dependence on imported liquid fuel, and especially motor spirit. He stated that in the present year, Germany will produce more than fifty per cent of her needs of light motor fuel. The use of Diesel fuel is increasing in all forms of transport. Discussing the relation of road and rail, he said that the former employs almost twice as many persons as the railways, and in ten years the number of railway employees has fallen by fourteen per cent. Sir Philip advocated an extension of railway electrification, but pointed out that this would involve a big reduction in the consumption of coal, even were the power generated from steam boilers. At the same meeting Dr. Franz Fischer, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut, Mulheim, delivered the Melchett Lecture to the Institute, taking as his subject the conversion of coal into liquid motor fuels and other products by way of carbon monoxide. Having indicated the advantages of beginning with a single pure gas such as carbon monoxide rather than raw coal, as in direct hydrogenation, Dr. Fischer traced the development of his work from 1921 until the present stage when large-scale plant is in use. Very extensive efforts were necessary in the search for a suitable catalyst and a method for adequately purifying the gaseous raw material. Hydrocarbons ranging from petrol to paraffin wax are obtained by this 'Kogasin' synthesis. Thus these researches have shown that from coal and water all necessary liquid fuels would be obtainable from coal even if mineral oils were entirely exhausted. Fischer's process offers the advantage over the process of direct hydrogenation, that high pressures are not used and that only plant of common materials, easy to fabricate, is required.

#### Electric Services in Buildings

MR. H. T. YOUNG, who is connected with the installation and contracting section of the electrical industry, gave his presidential address before the Institution of Electrical Engineers on October 22.

In the early days, electrical installations in buildings were for lighting and bells. Wood casing was used, and, so far as possible, it was concealed from view. Cables, wires and equipment were placed anywhere where they would be out of sight. Now new and larger buildings are being erected all over the country, and electrical contractors are having difficulty in doing their work satisfactorily under the new conditions. The steel and concrete buildings of to-day, if once completed, are almost impregnable to electric services. The item in electrical accounts entitled "cutting away and making good" averages about ten per cent of the cost of the whole installation. In new buildings which are planned and designed for electrical services, this item is much smaller and the time of building is accelerated; Mr. Young urged that channels, ducts and conduits for the reception of wires and cables should be considered in the future as an integral part of the building from the point of intake to the outlets. In the United States and Canada, underfloor duct systems have been adopted for more than ten years as standard practice in nearly every type of building, except private houses. The ducts are made of steel or fibre and are laid in the floor during construction. In Great Britain, a beginning of the duct system has been made. Three ducts are used, one for telephones and signalling wires, one for heating and power, and one for lighting.

MR. YOUNG showed lantern slides of installations in progress and completed where electrical engineers and architects have planned their work together. In particular, he mentioned the new buildings of the University of London, which he said are the most interesting buildings in the course of erection in the country to-day, and also seem to have the most complete electrical installation, as the lighting, space-heating, water-heating, and many other services are all electric. There is one flue only, and that is for a coal fire in an official's study. In blocks of flats in London, arrangements are now being made for the reception of sound and television services. These are taken from one central aerial system and distributed by cables to a terminal box in each flat. The tenant receives both services on his own equipment through a 'socket outlet' and plug attachment. A special type of cable is used for carrying the extremely high frequency currents used in television. The estimated total annual consumption of all-mains radio sets is 300 million units. This equals twice the estimated load in 1910 for lighting, heating and cooking. He mentioned that a large store in London (Selfridge's) has an annual consumption of electricity ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  million units) which equals that of places like Weymouth, Perth, or the whole of the Isle of Wight. There are other buildings in London, such as stores and hotels, which consume five million units per annum. He considers that none of these could be described as fully equipped electrically.

#### The Training of the Engineer

IN his inaugural address as president of the North-East Coast Institution of Engineers and