

From this brief review it will be seen that adequate means are available for the prevention of excessive emission of dust and grit into the atmosphere. In the case of very large installations, public opinion has already compelled the use of admittedly expensive methods of dust removal, and there are signs that in the near future, whatever the cost, the demand made upon smaller plants

will be more exacting than in the past. There are, however, also indications, both in patent specifications and in the technical press, that increased public interest in atmospheric pollution has given rise to increased experimental work upon its prevention, and it is reasonable to hope that by the time a more rigorous standard is adopted, its cost will not be too heavy a burden upon industry.

## Obituary Notices

### Mr. Thomas Crook, O.B.E.

**A**LIFE of strenuous and useful work with ripe experience terminated on January 6 when Thomas Crook, principal of the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute, London, died after an abdominal operation, at the early age of sixty years.

Crook was born at Burnley, in Lancashire, on January 12, 1876. On the examination results of the old Science and Art Department he gained in 1898 a Royal Exhibition to the Royal College of Science for Ireland, where he took the associateship (A.R.C.Sc.I.) in natural science in 1901. He then became assistant in geology to the late Prof. Grenville A. J. Cole. In 1905 he joined the Scientific Department of the Imperial Institute, and for six years (1919-25) he was chief of the Intelligence and Publications Section of the new Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, which afterwards was incorporated with the Imperial Institute.

Thomas Crook, with his keenness for work and his balanced judgment, early gave promise of being a prominent scientific investigator; but in course of time, his energies became more and more devoted to economic problems in connexion with developing the mineral resources of the Empire. While in Dublin, he described with Grenville Cole rocks dredged from the Atlantic, and devised a method for the mechanical analysis of soils with the well-known Crook's elutriator. In London, under Sir Wyndham Dunstan, excellent mineralogical work was done, and papers were published on geikielite, carnotite, strüverite, ankerite and magnesite, on the electrostatic and electromagnetic separation of minerals, and on some curious optical properties of certain minerals. A paper with a philosophical bearing was "The Genetic Classification of Rocks and Ore Deposits", which several years later he expanded to form a book, "History of the Theory of Ore Deposits" (1933). Another excellent and useful book is his "Economic Mineralogy" (1921).

This promising scientific work gradually became eclipsed by a vast number of well-written abstracts and articles on the occurrence and possible uses of a great variety of mineral products, which appeared mostly in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, but without being keyed to an author's name (with the result that they were not always entered in biblio-

ographies, and not easily quoted). With the foundation in 1919 of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, a still more intensive period followed. Then were issued long series of useful pamphlets and books dealing with some fifty different minerals and ores, each complete in itself, and with several editions bringing the statistics up to date. Authoritative statistical volumes of the world's mineral production were also issued annually. Another useful volume, "Minerals of the Empire", was issued for the Wembley Exhibition in 1924. This good work was continued on Crook's return to the Imperial Institute in 1925. All these publications bear evidence of his influence.

Content in his work, Crook did not strive for honours; but some did come at the end of the chapter. He was made O.B.E. in 1936. In November last he was elected a vice-president of the Mineralogical Society; and in December the honorary degree of B.Sc. was conferred on him by the National University of Ireland.

L. J. S.

### Dr. E. E. Prince

**DR. EDWARD ERNEST PRINCE** died at his residence in Ottawa, Canada, on October 10, at the age of seventy-eight years. A native of Leeds, he graduated from the University of St. Andrews, and taught in the University of Edinburgh and (as professor of biology) at the Royal College of Medicine, Glasgow. He was one of the group studying the development of fishes under Prof. W. C. McIntosh at the St. Andrews Marine Laboratory. His publications in this field gave him recognition as a fishery specialist, and as such he investigated the fisheries on the east coast of England and the west coast of Ireland.

In 1892 Dr. Prince was appointed commissioner of fisheries for Canada, which position he held until his retirement from active life in 1925. Being responsible for the application of science to fishery problems, he urged in 1894 the establishment in Canada of a marine scientific station, and the support of the Royal Society of Canada and of the British Association at its Toronto meeting in 1896 led to the Canadian Parliament voting the necessary funds in 1898. He was made director of the new station, which operated with a board of university men to manage it and was

located on the Atlantic coast. When a Great Lakes station and a Pacific station were afterwards developed, he continued to guide the work as chairman of the modified Board (incorporated in 1912 as the Biological Board of Canada), retaining this position until 1921 and remaining a member of the Board until his death.

Dr. Prince played a leading part on various fishery commissions in Canada, and with Dr. D. Starr Jordan formed the International Fishery Commission, established by treaty in 1908, which prepared common regulations for the fisheries in waters contiguous to Canada and the United States.

Dr. Prince was a keen naturalist and intensely interested in people. By charm of manner and breadth of interests he exercised a wide influence in a multiplicity of personal contacts throughout Canada and elsewhere. He was the author of more than fifty papers, nearly all on fishery subjects, and initiated or stimulated a large part of the investigations of Canadian waters, effectively applying to the first stage of fisheries research in Canada the knowledge and experience he had developed in Great Britain.

A. G. H.

#### Mr. G. P. V. Aylmer

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Gerald Percy Vivian Aylmer, African traveller and explorer, which took place on December 20 at Newcastle-on-Tyne in his eightieth year.

Mr. Percy Aylmer, as he was generally known, was born in 1857 and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Notwithstanding the fact that as a result of a fall in the hunting field at Cambridge one leg was permanently deformed, Mr. Aylmer on

leaving the University entered on a life of travel and strenuous adventure. In 1881, after taking a course of study in astronomy, he went to the Sudan with F. L. and William D. James and E. Lort-Phillips. The party entered the then unknown Basé country and mapped this region for the first time. Until then, it is said, no white man who had attempted to enter this country had ever returned. In 1884 the same party succeeded, where Burton, Speke and others had failed, in crossing the Horn of Africa and reaching the Webbe Sinbeli River. Here again uncharted lands were traversed; parts of Somaliland, including Wal-Wal, were then mapped for the first time. Observations on the natural history and natives of the country were noted in Aylmer's diaries, it is stated by Sir Alfred Pease in a communication to *The Times* of January 1; but unfortunately these have never been published.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. J. A. MacWilliam, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Aberdeen, on January 13, aged seventy-nine years.

Dr. R. J. Tillyard, F.R.S., formerly chief Commonwealth entomologist in Australia, on January 13, aged fifty-five years.

Dr. T. B. Wagner, consulting chemist on foods and chemical engineer, president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in 1913, and vice-president of the Society of Chemical Industry (London) in 1908, on November 12, aged sixty-seven years.

Dr. Theodor Wiegand, president of the Archaeological Institute of Berlin and director of excavations at Pergamon, aged seventy-two years.

## News and Views

### International Congress of Genetics and the U.S.S.R.

THE next International Congress of Genetics was to have been held at Moscow in August next, the preparations for it being in the hands of Russian geneticists. A wireless message from Moscow to the *New York Times*, which was published in *Science* of December 18, stated that the Congress had been cancelled by the Soviet Government; that genetics had been attacked as of no practical value by T. D. Lysenko, who is known for his work in the vernalization of wheat and other crops; that Prof. N. I. Vavilov, the distinguished head of the plant-breeding services in the U.S.S.R., had been arrested; and that Prof. S. G. Levit, who is director of the Maxim Gor'ky Medico-Genetical Institute and was general secretary of the Organization Committee for the International Congress of Genetics, had been heavily attacked in the Communist party press for allowing a member of his staff to publish a paper in which it is concluded that the Buryats of Siberia have a mental age of

twelve years. Prof. Vavilov has since sent to the *New York Times* a message, a copy of which has been sent to us by the Soviet Union Year Book Press Service, denying the story of his arrest and pointing out the large growth which has taken place in the Institute of Plant Breeding under his direction during the Soviet regime. According to a report circulated by Science Service, of Washington, D.C., Prof. H. B. Ward, permanent secretary of the American Association, has received a message from the U.S.S.R. indicating that the Congress of Genetics has been postponed but not cancelled. As the titles of papers for the Congress were to have been sent in soon, it is clear that a more definite announcement regarding the postponement is desirable, since many geneticists were already making arrangements to attend. These Congresses have been held every five years, the last being at Ithaca, New York, in 1932. No adequate grounds for a postponement have yet appeared.