

News and Views

Dr. G. F. Herbert Smith

DR. G. F. HERBERT SMITH retires from the keepership of minerals in the British Museum (Natural History) on May 26. He joined the staff of the Mineral Department under Sir Lazarus Fletcher in 1897 and devoted himself particularly to mathematical crystallography and to the development of scientific methods for the identification of gem-stones. An account of his earlier career and of his scientific work appeared in these pages in 1935 (135, p. 948). In 1921 he was appointed assistant secretary and later secretary, of the British Museum (Natural History). This was a loss to the Mineral Department, but an undoubted gain to the Museum as a whole. During his fourteen years in this office he worked for the improvement of the equipment and buildings of the Museum, and the increase of numbers and betterment of conditions of employment of its staff, and for the prestige at home and abroad of a great scientific institution. During his short period of office as keeper of minerals since 1935, he has continued the improvement in display methods initiated by his predecessor. The finely illuminated wall-cases at the entrance to the mineral gallery and the nitrogen-filled case housing the great Cranbourne meteoric iron have all been completed under his supervision. With the office of secretary to the Museum he took over the secretaryship of the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves and he has been chairman of the Wild Plant Conservation Board since 1931. These activities will not cease with his retirement from the Museum, and it may be hoped that time may also be found for a resumption of scientific work interrupted by many years of administrative duties. Quite apart from his scientific work, Dr. Herbert Smith has taken a very active part in Civil Service affairs. He was one of the honorary secretaries of the Society of Civil Servants in 1918-1925, vice-president in 1925-1928, and president in 1928-1932. He has been honorary secretary and treasurer of the Civil Service Arts Council since 1924.

Lieut.-Colonel W. Campbell Smith

LIEUT.-COLONEL WALTER CAMPBELL SMITH has been appointed to succeed Dr. Herbert Smith. Lieut.-Colonel Campbell Smith was born in 1887 and educated at Solihull and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He took a first class in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos (Mineralogy), and was appointed to the Museum in 1910, where his work has been confined mainly to the collection of rocks, which has been entirely rearranged in his time. He was promoted to deputy keeper in 1931. At the outbreak of the Great War he was a lance-corporal in the Artists' Rifles, was later seconded to the Special Brigade, R.F., and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1918. He resumed his connexion with the Artists' Rifles after the War and

retired in 1935 with the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel. He was secretary of the Geological Society of London in 1921-1932, and has been secretary of the Mineralogical Society since 1927. He was a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1921-24, and is a governor of the Royal Holloway College.

Pulitzer Prize for Science Reporters

THE Pulitzer prizes in letters and journalism for the current year were announced on May 3 by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University. Among the awards was a prize of one thousand dollars to five members of the National Association of Science Writers, all of whom have reported the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for many years. The award, "for the most distinguished example of a reporter's work", was given in recognition of their accomplishments in connexion with the tercentenary celebration of Harvard University. The criteria on which the award is made are "strict accuracy, terseness, the preference being given to stories prepared under the pressure of edition time that redound to the credit of journalism". Those sharing the reward are: Howard W. Blakeslee, Associated Press, president; William L. Laurence, *New York Times*, vice-president; David Dietz, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, past president; Gobond Behari Lal, Universal Service; and John J. O'Neill, *New York Herald-Tribune*. The work of reporting the celebration was carefully organized in advance by the Harvard authorities in co-operation with the National Association of Science Writers, the president of the University, Dr. Conant, giving personal attention to the matter. The result was eminently satisfactory, and the award of the Pulitzer prize to the five writers mentioned is an encouraging mark of appreciation of the way in which a great university function was described in the periodical press.

The Coronation Broadcast

THE modern development of radio broadcasting is among the most wonderful and at the same time the most satisfactory, of the practical applications of scientific and technical research. This was admirably demonstrated on Coronation Day, May 12, when the elaborate arrangements outlined in NATURE of May 1 were submitted to the test of practical achievement. For more than six hours, almost the entire resources of the British Broadcasting Corporation were devoted to the handling of a sound picture of the procession and coronation ceremony from start to finish. In addition, at a selected point on the route, a combined sound and vision programme was successfully broadcast from the London television station, while, later in the day, a 'round the Empire' programme concluding with an address from H.M. the King was also