

and other faults in his translations (though never unready to admit mistakes) chiefly because of a certain lack in comprehension of the practical sense of a phrase or of a text, and this allowed him too often to put forward merely verbal translations. It must be remembered, however, that some of the literature to which he devoted himself is jejune in content, and must necessarily look rather absurd in the baldness of translation. How carefully he had prepared himself for this work is shown by his "Sumerian Grammar" (1911), which, if it cannot be said to have marked a decisive advance, has the credit of being the first full-length treatment of the subject.

To the study of the Akkadian (Semitic) language, which is better known, Langdon's contributions were less copious. But he has to his credit at least one book which is still a standard work of reference, "Die neubabylonischen Königsinschriften" (1912) and, despite certain oddities, his "Babylonian Epic of Creation" (1923) contains much which subsequent translators have been glad to use. Besides one or two philological books of less importance he wrote in 1931 a general work on "Semitic Mythology" which, somewhat belying its name, drew very largely upon the Sumerian religious literature which he knew so well. But many will think that one of Langdon's

most remarkable achievements was that he, essentially a man of the study who had hitherto shown little interest in archæology, seized the opportunity after the Great War to excavate in Iraq, and with great enthusiasm proposed, organized, and even raised part of the money for, an expedition which made important discoveries at Kish. He himself spent two seasons on the site, much to the detriment of his health, and afterwards began two series of volumes devoted to the archæological and epigraphical results of the work. In his latest years he often spoke of a Sumerian dictionary which he had long been preparing, and he had announced a future edition of the Assyrian texts upon which his recent Schweich lectures were based.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. A. Erman, formerly director of the Egyptian Section of the Berlin Museum, and professor of Egyptology in the University, on June 26, aged eighty-three years.

Dr. H. H. Jeffcott, secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on June 29.

Prof. T. Mather, F.R.S., emeritus professor of electrical engineering in the City and Guilds (Engineering) College, Imperial College of Science and Technology, on June 23, aged eighty-one years.

News and Views

Queen Mary and the Bodleian Extension

QUEEN MARY was given a warm and affectionate welcome when, on June 25, in royal weather, she visited Oxford to lay the foundation-stone of the great Bodleian extension to be erected in Broad Street opposite the Clarendon Building. A special Convocation of members of the University was held in the Sheldonian Theatre to which the public were admitted without ticket, and which was so filled in every part that although no one was turned away, twenty more could not have been accommodated in comfort. There an address of thanks was presented to Queen Mary by the Chancellor, Lord Halifax, and the Vice-Chancellor, the Master of Balliol. They spoke of how proud Oxford is of its ancient, Bodleian library, and how urgent it is for the work now being done in all branches of teaching and research that it should be properly maintained and extended. The Queen then crossed Broad Street to a stand raised above the enormous hole in the ground which is at present the site. There was assembled another large party representative of Oxford life, academic and civic, and of those entrusted with the erection of the building, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect, was present. The Queen then laid the foundation-stone on which the following words have been inscribed :

AEDIFICII NOVI BODLEIANI
 HVNC PRIMVM LAPIDEM
 POSVIT MARIA REGINA
 REGIS GEORGII VI MATER
 DIE XXV MENS. IVN. A.D. MCMXXXVII

Prof. F. Wood Jones, F.R.S.

PROF. FREDERIC WOOD JONES, at present professor of anatomy in the University of Melbourne, has accepted an invitation to fill the chair of anatomy in the University of Manchester, in succession to Prof. J. S. B. Stopford, who has asked to be relieved of the duties of the chair, in view of the increasing responsibilities of his administrative work as vice-chancellor of the University. Prof. Wood Jones graduated in science in the University of London in 1903, and in medicine and surgery in 1904. In 1910 he was awarded the degree of D.Sc. in zoology of the University of London. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1925 and to the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1930. Prof. Wood Jones has held professorial chairs in the London School of Medicine for Women (anatomy) and in the Universities of Adelaide (anatomy), and Hawaii (physical anthropology) in addition to the chair of anatomy at Melbourne, to which he was appointed in 1930. In 1932-33 he acted as temporary director of the Peiping Union Medical College. His experience in other fields includes the duties of a medical officer in the Far East, anthropologist to the Egyptian Government, and membership of the Archæological Survey of Nubia. On four occasions he has delivered the Arris and Gale Lectures of the Royal College of Surgeons. Among his numerous published works are "Coral and Atolls", "Arboreal Man", "The Mammals of South Australia" and "Man's Place among the Mammals".