

## News and Views

## Prof. G. Barger, F.R.S.

THE appointment, which is announced elsewhere (p. 556) of Prof. G. Barger, professor of chemistry in relation to medicine at the University of Edinburgh, to the Regius chair of chemistry in the University of Glasgow, will give general satisfaction. By his work during the past thirty years, Prof. Barger has exercised a considerable influence on the development of organic chemistry and biochemistry in Great Britain. In his well-known early collaboration with Dr. (now Sir Henry) Dale, in the laboratories of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., he was jointly responsible for one of the most fruitful applications of organic chemistry to biological problems which has ever been made; he is a distinguished worker in the field of alkaloid chemistry and by his own work and through his pupils he has made major contributions to what may be called in general terms organic biochemistry. Prof. Barger's appointment in 1919, after holding the professorship of chemistry at the Royal Holloway College, London, to the newly instituted chair of chemistry in relation to medicine at Edinburgh, was in itself a recognition of the outstanding characteristic of his work, namely, the attack of organic chemical problems related to biology not from a narrowly chemical point of view but with true appreciation of their biological implications. His Department at Edinburgh has continued to work on these lines, and has at the same time been responsible for great improvements in the teaching of chemistry to students of medicine. Prof. Barger's influence in chemistry to-day is further enhanced by the many contacts which he maintains with colleagues in other countries, aided as he is by linguistic attainments of distinction. It is encouraging to those who believe that organic chemistry has still vital contributions to make to biology that an important chair of chemistry such as that at Glasgow should be occupied by one who has shown the keenness of his biochemical interests by his own sustained efforts and through the work of his pupils.

## Memorial to Samuel Smiles, LL.D.

IN the latter half of the last century a book called "Self Help" was widely read, and an indication of this is shown by its having been translated into twenty-two languages. It developed from a lecture given by Dr. Samuel Smiles in the old Cholera Hospital, Leeds, to a mutual improvement class of working men. Smiles was born in 1812 at Haddington and educated at the Burgh School and at the University of Edinburgh, where he qualified as a medical man. Not having sufficient patients, he wrote articles, and these were seen by the proprietor of the *Leeds Times* who in 1838 asked him to be editor. In 1842, having then "had enough of unquiet life of newspaper work", he set up as a surgeon in Holbeck,

South Leeds. He was partly attracted there by the activities of a school and in his autobiography he says: "On Sundays I taught young men and sometimes gave addresses in Zion School, New Wortley." Smiles married the daughter of a Leeds contractor and in 1845 became secretary of the Leeds and Thirsk Railway, which was afterwards absorbed into the Midland Railway system. This occupation brought him into contact with engineers, and he began to collect data which later appeared in his five volumes of the "Lives of the Engineers"; "Industrial Biography"; "The Lives of George and Robert Stephenson", etc. By his writings and lectures, etc., he helped to create in the West Riding a strong public opinion on such questions as the repeal of the Corn Laws; Parliamentary reform; national education and free public libraries. Zion School was one of the first to have such a library. A memorial tablet in bronze is to be fixed on the old school building, and a set of his books has been presented by Sir John Murray, whose firm published them. Sir Walter D. Smiles, M.P., is also presenting an enlarged framed portrait. The organizer of the memorial is Mr. E. Kilburn Scott, of 38 Claremont Square, London, N.1.

## "Shiva's Temple", Arizona

WIDESPREAD interest has been aroused by the investigation of "Shiva's Temple", in the Grand Canyon, Arizona, U.S.A., which is being explored by the Paterson-American Museum Grand Canyon Expedition, with Dr. Harold Anthony, curator of mammalogy in the American Museum of Natural History, as its leader. Shiva's Temple, an isolated cliff of limestone, rises to a height of 1,200 feet above the floor of the Canyon, and is surmounted by a wooded plateau two hundred and seventy-five acres in extent, which is reputed never to have been visited by man since the cliff was separated from the mainland at some time about the close of the Ice Age. It was anticipated that forms of animal life, if any, surviving on the plateau after so lengthily a period of isolation might afford valuable evidence of adaptation and divergence. Dr. Anthony and Mr. Edwin McKee, chief naturalist of the Grand Canyon National Park, with six other members of the expedition, reached the plateau on September 16 after a three hours' climb. Shed antlers of deer were seen, as well as chipmunk, a rabbit and signs of coyote. The first specimens brought to the base camp were a pair of leaf-eared mice. Traps have been set for other animals by Dr. Anthony, who remained on the plateau when other members of the party returned to the base camp. Supplies were dropped from an aeroplane, including water, of which no trace has been found on the plateau. This makes it remarkable that the party should have been much troubled by mosquitoes.