

## News and Views

### Dr. R. R. Marett, F.B.A.

ON November 20, the University of Oxford conferred the honorary degree of D.Litt. upon Dr. Robert Ranulph Marett, rector of Exeter College, Oxford, in recognition of his services to the study of anthropology. Dr. Marett has been closely identified with Oxford for the greater part of his life, first as senior exhibitioner of Balliol College, then as fellow, sub-rector and tutor of Exeter College, of which he became rector in succession to the late Dr. L. R. Farnell in 1928. Dr. Marett has held a distinguished position in academic circles as a philosopher since the days when he crowned his career as an undergraduate by winning the Green Essay Prize in Moral Philosophy, after being awarded the Chancellor's Prize for Latin verse; but to the outside world he is best known as an anthropologist, the formulator of the theory of preanimism in the study of primitive religion, the author of a number of books and contributions to scientific publications dealing with the beliefs and ethics of primitive man, as well as a writer on matters of prehistoric archaeology with a knowledge based upon practical experience in cave exploration and excavation.

WITHIN the precincts of the University, however, it is recognized that Dr. Marett's services to the study of anthropology go beyond his personal contributions to research and the advancement of knowledge. He has played the part of pioneer and advocate in organizing facilities within the University for others to pursue these studies. Not only did he take a prominent part in the arrangements for the instruction of officers destined for the Sudan Civil Service, as well as in the institution of a diploma in anthropology, but after the vacation of the professorship of anthropology by the late Sir Edward Tylor, when the chair was virtually in commission, he with the late Prof. Arthur Thomson, the anatomist, and Dr. Henry Balfour of the Pitt-Rivers' Museum, were the protagonists in a struggle to secure increased recognition for a subject which had not yet won popularity among academic subjects. It was mainly through Dr. Marett's efforts that the University readership in social anthropology, which he had held for some years, was raised recently to the dignity of a professorial chair.

### Dr. R. E. Priestley

THE newly appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham (see p. 942), Dr. R. E. Priestley, has had a varied career. Born at Tewkesbury and educated at Tewkesbury Grammar School under his father, he proceeded to the University of Bristol. His course there was interrupted when in 1907 he joined Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic as a geologist and was thus occupied until 1909, when he went to Sydney and resumed his geological studies,

working out with Prof. Edgeworth David the results of the Expedition. In 1913 he joined Scott's antarctic expedition and became a member of the Northern Party, a history of which he gave in his book "Antarctic Adventure". Returning to England after the outbreak of the Great War, he joined the army, going to France with the R.E. Signals and attaining the rank of major and being awarded the M.C. Later, at the War Office he wrote the history of the Signal Service in France and a book called "Breaking the Hindenburg Line". He then went to Christ's College, Cambridge, and took the M.A. degree. He was elected a fellow of Clare College, and ultimately became secretary general of the Faculties of the University. In 1935 he was appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Melbourne and while holding that office he visited many universities in Canada, the United States and New Zealand, thus acquiring knowledge of the problems of the English-speaking university world.

### Prof. Carl Neuberg

*Enzymologia*, the new journal edited by Prof. Carl Oppenheimer, devotes its entire third and fourth volumes, 568 pages in all, to commemorate the sixtieth birthday of Carl Neuberg, which took place on July 29, 1937 (Vol. 3. Neuberg-Festschrift, Teil 1. Pp. xiv + 300 + 5 plates. Vol. 4. Neuberg-Festschrift, Teil 2. Pp. viii + 268 + 9 plates. Den Haag : Dr. W. Junk, 1937. 15 florins each). No fewer than 87 papers by nearly twice that number of colleagues are contributed in honour of Neuberg, all dealing with some branch of the ever-widening enzyme question. It may be recorded that in the course of his forty years activity, he and his students have published 1,000 papers, whilst not the least of his services to his chosen science has been his editorship of the *Biochemische Zeitschrift*, which he founded in 1906 and produced 280 volumes by 1936. The numerical introduction we have given indicates a perfect spate of research and publication far too great to be properly assimilated by any one reader, though it is scarcely necessary to emphasize that Neuberg has to his reputation achievements of outstanding quality, notably his work on fermentation. The writer well remembers him working as a student of A. Wohl in Emil Fischer's laboratory in 1900 onwards, when Neuberg was also acting as assistant to Ernst Salkowski in the pathological institute of the University of Berlin, and may be allowed to use this opportunity to offer him also the congratulations of his English colleagues. Neuberg followed Wassermann in 1920 as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry in Berlin-Dahlem and has carried out all his work there until he retired last year. He made this institute an outstanding centre of research activity and attracted workers of all countries to it.