

It was because Dr. Vaughan cherished these high educational ideals that his influence while a school master and since his retirement is appreciated by all who have come under it. By his lamented death, the educational interests of science have suffered a severe loss and his many scientific friends have to mourn the passing into silence of a helpful colleague.

We regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. H. H. Donaldson, for thirty-two years professor of neurology in the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia, known for his work on growth, particularly of the nervous system, on January 23, aged eighty years.

Mr. Alan E. Munby, architect of Clifton College Science School and other important science laboratories, on January 19, aged sixty-eight years.

Dr. Andrei Vassilievitch Martynov, professor in the Institute of Palæontology at Moscow, well known for his work on Trichoptera and fossil insects, on January 29, aged fifty-nine years.

Dr. F. G. Pease, of Mount Wilson Observatory, where he was responsible for the design of many large instruments, on February 7, aged fifty-seven years.

Prof. Herman Schlundt, chairman of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Missouri, known for his work on radioactivity, on December 30, aged sixty-eight years.

News and Views

The London School of Economics

IN a leading article on "Realistic Social Studies" in *NATURE* of January 22, incidental reference was made to the London School of Economics and it was stated "that responsible bodies which administer funds for research . . . have refused to renew temporary grants such as the Rockefeller subsidy to the London School". We are informed that the facts with regard to the Rockefeller Foundation are as follows : "During the past three years, four temporary grants from the Foundation to the School have been in force. Two of these for the purpose of site extension and library development still remain available ; a third, providing funds for research, terminated in 1935 and was then renewed on a somewhat different basis for a five-year period ; the fourth grant, providing facilities for post-graduate teaching and research, does not expire until the end of the current academic year. No formal application has yet been made by the School for the renewal of this grant : hence, no action has yet been taken. If the editorial of January 22 seems to imply that there has been any criticism offered or expressed by 'responsible bodies which administer funds for research' such an implication does not exist. In point of fact, no criticism as to the teaching and research in economics under way at the London School has ever been made on the part of any Foundations which have assisted it in the past and assist it now." The context of our comment made it clear that it referred to the grant which terminated in 1935, and that it had no relevance to any allocations for the purchase of books, for site extension or for post-graduate instruction. We were in receipt of full information concerning the "somewhat different basis" on which the grant was renewed. If, as we understand, the previous annual grant which terminated in 1935 was replaced by a reduced

and tapering allocation, there seems little ground for objection to the statement published in our editorial. The main purpose of the article was to urge that the new Institute of Economic and Social Research should "tackle the fundamental problems arising from the way in which expanding technical resources react upon, and are used by, existing social institutions" ; and the purpose will have been served if the article leads to the extension of social research in these directions. With Prof. Carr-Saunders as the new director of the School it may confidently be expected that increased encouragement will be given to such studies.

American Institute Awards

DR. W. CROCKER has been awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of the City of New York for "his contribution to knowledge of life processes in plants and for his unique leadership in the organization of plant research". Dr. Crocker was professor and director of research in plant physiology at the University of Chicago for many years. He organized and has directed the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research from the time it was founded in 1921 to the present day. At the University of Chicago and the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research he has acquired a reputation as an organizer and director of research. His method has been to bring together specialists in different fields of knowledge and to give these specialists an opportunity to work co-operatively on biological problems that have not yielded to attacks by individuals working single-handed. Dr. Crocker has also done noteworthy research. He was the first to show that ethylene gas in air in amounts far too small to be detected by any known chemical means causes profound reactions in plants. He