

where he was associated with General Percy Molesworth Sykes, who speaks highly of his abilities and achievement in dealing with Eastern peoples in his "History of Persia". In 1920 he retired, having received the orders of the Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and the British Empire. In 1922 he was created K.C.I.E. In 1923 he accepted an heraldic appointment in Scotland. He resigned the office of Albany Herald in 1935 on the ground of ill-health.

As an oriental scholar, Sir Walseley Haig will be remembered chiefly for his contributions to Indian history and for his detailed knowledge of Moslem rule. As a translator his version of Badaoni's history, one of the chief sources for Akbar's reign, is the

standard of reference. He also translated the *Burhan-i-Maasir* of Tabatabai, the principal source for the Nizam Shahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. On his return to England, Sir Walseley was appointed professor of Arabic, Persian and Hindustani at Trinity College, Dublin, and later was lecturer in Persian in the School of Oriental Studies, London. He was also joint editor of the "Cambridge History of India", the third and fourth volumes, covering the whole Moslem period, being allotted to him. The third volume was largely his own work; but owing to a breakdown in health, after he had planned the fourth volume and prepared voluminous notes, the completion of the volume fell to Sir Richard Burn.

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## News and Views

Prof. J. J. Abel, For. Mem. R.S.

PROF. JOHN JACOB ABEL, who has just been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society, is the doyen of American pharmacologists. He is one of the best known and widely beloved personalities in medical science, in his own and other countries. After graduation, he worked under C. Ludwig in Leipzig and O. Schmiedeberg in Strassburg. Returning to the United States, he became professor of pharmacology at Ann Arbor, Michigan, migrated from there in 1893 to be the first professor of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, and held this chair with great distinction for nearly forty years. Prof. Abel's direct contributions to science have been chiefly on the chemical side of pharmacology. He was the first to bring to practical completion the isolation of epinephrine (adrenaline); later he discovered the same substance in the skin glands of a South American toad, from which he also isolated the toxic principle 'bufagin'; and he was the first to crystallize insulin. Among many other achievements, he devised methods for studying the diffusible constituents of the living blood, and the reconstitution of its plasma after hæmorrhage. Even in his retirement he is actively engaged in new and important researches on tetanus toxin. Throughout medical science in the United States his influence has been spread by his pupils, inspired by the example of a long life of selfless devotion to the pursuit of knowledge.

Prof. N. E. Nørlund, For. Mem. R.S.

AN unusually wide circle among men of science, including mathematicians, astronomers and geodesists, will approve and appreciate the election of Prof. N. E. Nørlund to the foreign membership of the Royal Society. Prof. Nørlund has since 1923 been the director of the Danish Geodetic Institute, an office always previously held (as in the case of the Ordnance Survey in Great Britain) by a military officer. In

recent years, he has undertaken a new first-order triangulation of Denmark, and in Greenland also he has instituted a new triangulation which will extend up to 76° N.—a most valuable contribution to the determination of the figure of the earth. In mathematics, his works include memoirs on the theory of difference equations in the complex domain; on divergent series; and on continued fractions. In astronomy, at the University Observatory of Copenhagen, he has worked especially on the errors which affect the meridian observations of fixed stars, and has also made an important study of the double star  $\xi$  Ursæ Majoris, concluding from a very slight perturbation in its orbital motions that it is a triple star, the observable pair having an invisible satellite. Prof. Nørlund has held many distinguished offices in his own country, and has played a prominent part in the international organization of science; he has presided over the Baltic Geodetic Commission, the International Time Commission, and the International Council of Scientific Unions. He is a foreign member of the Academies of Science in Paris, Rome (Lincei) and Stockholm, and an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Prof. René Leriche

THE Lister Medal for 1939, which is awarded in recognition of distinguished contributions to surgical science, has been awarded to Prof. René Leriche, professor of clinical surgery in the University of Strasbourg, and he will deliver the Lister Memorial Lecture in 1939 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Prof. Leriche, who was born on October 12, 1879, received his medical education at Lyons, taking his degree in 1906. In 1906-9 he was chief of the surgical clinic of the Lyons hospitals, and then became full surgeon. In 1920 he became lecturer in experimental surgery at Lyons, and has also held there the professorship of external pathology. In 1924 he was appointed to the chair of clinical surgery