

## News and Views

### Albrecht Penck

ON September 25, Albrecht Penck, world-famed as geologist and geographer, will celebrate his eightieth birthday. Born at Renditz, near Leipzig, in 1858, Penck was educated at Leipzig and Munich, taking his Ph.D. in 1878. In 1885, two years after he had published his "Die Vergletscherung der Deutschen Alpen", he was appointed to the chair of geography in the University of Vienna, where he remained for twenty years, until in 1906 he was appointed to take charge of the Museum of Marine Studies in the University of Berlin. Under his direction, the Museum was much enlarged, and he himself made important contributions to the study of hydrography. In 1922 he was made director of the Institute of Geography of the University, becoming emeritus in 1927. While still at Vienna, Penck had established an international reputation for his illuminating treatment of geology and geography as linked studies. His "Morphology of the Earth's Surface" (1894) was speedily accorded recognition as a standard work. Notwithstanding his numerous contributions to geography, which his widely extended travels kept in close touch with practical realities, Penck's strongest claim to the remembrance of posterity will rest on his epoch-making studies of the Ice Age. Since the publication of "Die Alpen im Eiszeitalter" (1909), written in conjunction with his old pupil and friend, Ed. Brückner, his classification of the four phases of maximum glaciation has been fundamental in all studies of quaternary geology and the history and chronology of early man. In tendering our congratulations on this occasion to Prof. Penck, we hope that he may live to enjoy the homage due to his labours for some time to come.

### Mr. H. C. Sampson, C.I.E.

MR. H. C. SAMPSON is retiring from the post of economic botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on September 30. Before going to Kew in 1927, Mr. Sampson had gained a wide experience of tropical agriculture in various parts of the Empire. Educated at the University of Edinburgh, he commenced his career in the Transvaal Department of Agriculture and in 1906 entered the Indian Agricultural Service, retiring in 1923 as director of agriculture, Madras. In 1920, Mr. Sampson made a tour in Cochin China and Cambodia, to study coco-nut and cotton cultivation, and after his retirement from India he worked for a time in Nyasaland for the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. Mr. Sampson's appointment at Kew was made in connexion with the grant from the Empire Marketing Board for the promotion of the economic development of the Empire, and his work at Kew has been devoted to this end. In addition to giving advice on crop improvement and on the introduction of plants of economic importance to correspondents from all

parts of the Empire, Mr. Sampson has paid visits, at the request of the Colonial Office, to British Guiana, British Honduras, the West Indian Colonies and East and West Africa, to study their economic resources. He has recently published a "List of the Cultivated Crop Plants of the British Empire" (*Kew Bull.*, Additional Series 12, 1936).

### Sir Geoffrey Evans, C.I.E.

MR. SAMPSON'S successor as economic botanist is Sir Geoffrey Evans, who is retiring from the post of principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. Sir Geoffrey was educated at Cambridge and was on the staff of the University Agricultural Department before entering the Indian Agricultural Service in 1906. He retired in 1923 as director of agriculture, Bengal. Afterwards, Sir Geoffrey worked in Australia, Fiji and New Guinea as director of cotton culture under the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and was appointed principal of the College in Trinidad in 1927.

### Mr. O. T. Faulkner, C.M.G.

THE governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, has appointed Mr. O. T. Faulkner to the post of principal of that College in succession to Sir Geoffrey Evans. It is difficult to suggest the name of anyone better qualified to fill this appointment. Mr. Faulkner has had a ripe and varied experience of tropical and sub-tropical agriculture in its many and varied phases. He first saw service abroad as mycologist to the Rubber Growers Research Association in Malaya, and after working there for two years was in 1914 appointed to the Indian Agricultural Service as deputy director of agriculture in the Punjab. In 1921 he resigned from this Service to take up the appointment of director of agriculture, Nigeria. For his valuable work in this capacity, where he defined the agricultural policy of the country and built up a most efficient Department, he was made C.M.G. in 1928. In 1936 he was transferred to Malaya as adviser on agriculture, which post he now relinquishes to become principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. As this College is responsible for the training of all recruits for the Colonial Agricultural Service, the post of principal is a most responsible and important one. Mr. Faulkner was born in 1890 and took his Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge in 1911 with first-class honours, and in the following year took his diploma in agriculture.

### Scientific Theory and Publicity

THE strictures on the methods of the B.B.C. in relation to certain broadcasts dealing with archaeological subjects, with which Prof. Gordon Childe prefaced his presidential address to the Anthropological Section at the Cambridge meeting of the