

Scholarship. At Oxford he performed the unusual feat of a first class in both Classical and Mathematical Moderations before taking a first in Greats in 1881. In the following year he was elected fellow of Lincoln College, where he remained until his appointment to the chair of philosophy in Manchester in 1893. He held this chair until his retirement in 1924, and he stayed faithful to Manchester to the end of his life. As presenter for honorary degrees until 1930 and as honorary professor he kept in close touch with the University. He lectured frequently in Manchester and elsewhere as long as his strength allowed. The University of Manchester possesses a fine bronze bust by Epstein which has preserved the severe beauty of his bearded head, but leaves the beholder to guess the kindness and humour that were also visible in life.

Alexander's philosophical writings are none of them 'popular' and are not to be read without intellectual effort; but given that effort they are found to be clear and straightforward and free of unnecessary technicalities. His first book, "Moral Order and Progress" (1889), which was awarded the Green Moral Philosophy Prize, was written before he developed his characteristic views. The long interval between this and the appearance of his chief work, "Space, Time, and Deity" (1920), filled with only one small book on "Locke" (1908), represents the incubation period of his philosophy. The first expositions of his views, in short papers from 1907 onwards, appeared at the time to be excessively paradoxical and made little impression. The invitation to Glasgow as Gifford Lecturer in 1916-18 was therefore well timed to induce him to develop his whole system in one comprehensive work. Later books are: "Spinoza and Time" (1921), "Art and the Material" (1925), "Beauty and Other Forms of

Value" (1933). His numerous papers in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Mind*, and other journals have not been published in book form.

In spite of his deafness, Alexander was the most sociable of men. He never forgot old friends and continually made new ones. People of all kinds and all ages were equally drawn to him. He was a witty speaker on social occasions, and his technique in presenting honorary graduands will long be remembered: a dexterous mixture of information and compliment spiced with gentle malice. The various honours bestowed on him of late years gave him unaffected pleasure: they merely confirmed his modest belief that people were kinder to him than he deserved. Though all his life a poor man who spent more on others than himself, during the last few years he gave to the funds for Jewish refugees as though his wealth was unlimited.

At the end, Alexander was ready and even glad to die, tired perhaps of a world where the insane persecution of his people has begun again, and where the reason and humanity in which he had put his faith seem to be fighting a losing battle. A. D. R.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Philip Dawson, a distinguished electrical engineer, who received the George Stephenson Gold Medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers and also the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts, on September 24, aged seventy-one years.

Lord Marks, known for his work in civil, mechanical, hydraulic and electrical installations, and founder of the firm of Marks and Clerk, patent agents, with which the late Sir Dugald Clerk was associated, on September 24, aged eighty years.

News and Views

Development of Museums and Galleries

THE Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, of which Sir Evan Charteris is chairman, has just issued its second report, covering the five years 1934-38 (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1938. 9d. net). The Commission was appointed in 1931 to advise generally on questions relevant to the most effective development of the national museums and galleries of Great Britain. The report surveys the very considerable building developments which have taken place in the period under review and directs attention especially to the part played in this by private benefactors: Lord Duveen's provision of sculpture galleries at the Tate Gallery, and one for the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum; also Sir James Caird's benefactions to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, and the gifts made by Sir Alexander Grant to the National Library of Scotland, are referred to. The Commission was invited by

the Treasury to advise on the general proposals for future building schemes, which would cost some £1,000,000, and to indicate an order of priority for them. Its recommendations, which it is understood have been accepted, provide for the entomology block of the Natural History Museum (second half), and the lecture hall for the Royal Scottish Museum being begun in 1938 and completed in 1939. These are to be followed by the central section of the Science Museum in 1940, the northern wing of the Natural History Museum in 1941, and the Museum of Ethnography in 1942, these being completed in from two to four years.

THE Commission has also been asked to advise on the future development of the site at South Kensington, which has of late been under consideration and was discussed in a leading article in *NATURE* of September 17. Final plans are not yet available and