

him to accept the honorary treasurership of the Faraday Society in 1930, succeeding his cousin, the late Sir Robert Mond, and in 1931 he also became honorary treasurer of the Chemical Society. The work of this latter office is particularly onerous, and Emile Mond never spared his efforts on behalf of the Chemical Society and of the Faraday Society. His work was carried out with meticulous care and foresight, and during the time he has looked after their affairs—he held both offices at the time of his death—the two Societies have made outstanding progress, and the publication and discussion of new knowledge in chemistry have been greatly extended.

Emile Mond was a man of rare discernment, great modesty and charm. Severely critical of his own efforts, he was always appreciative of those made by others. Only a few have any idea of his great generosity during many years, and this generosity was guided by his intense desire to help the younger generation, to advance science and other branches of knowledge and to extend international good will. For many years, Mr. and Mrs. Emile Mond have made their houses delightful centres of refinement and culture for their numerous friends in this and many other countries.

Emile Mond was a type of man unfortunately too rare in these days. His greatest happiness was in helping others towards a fuller appreciation of things that are worth while. He will be greatly missed, and

to Mrs. Mond and the family very many who were privileged to know this truly great man will wish to tender their deepest sympathy.

CHARLES S. GIBSON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. G. Barger, F.R.S., regius professor of chemistry in the University of Glasgow, on January 5, aged sixty years.

Mr. J. O. Borley, O.B.E., formerly fisheries adviser to the Colonial Office, known for his work with the "Discovery" Committee in connexion with the international control of whaling, on December 30, aged sixty-six years.

Mr. Reynold Bray, ornithologist of the British Canadian Arctic Expedition, aged twenty-seven years.

Prof. H. A. Cummins, C.M.G., emeritus professor of botany in University College, Cork, on December 31, aged seventy-four years.

Sir Robert McDougall, known for his services to the National Trust and his interest in agricultural research at Rothamsted, on December 15, aged sixty-seven years.

Prof. M. Pavlova, professor of palæontology in the University of Moscow, aged eighty-four years.

Prof. L. G. Schnirelman, professor of mathematics in the University of Moscow, aged thirty-one years.

News and Views

Sir Frank Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., F.R.S.

SIR FRANK EDWARD SMITH will relinquish on January 31 his appointment as secretary to the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, a post which he has held with distinction for the last ten years. Born in Birmingham in 1876, he gained a national scholarship in physics at the Royal College of Science in London. He was one of the first assistants appointed by the late Sir Richard Glazebrook when the National Physical Laboratory began in 1899, and he was superintendent of the Physical Department of the Laboratory from 1901 until 1920. During this time he did a great deal of advanced original research work, introducing many novel methods, but he was never satisfied with the results obtained until he had checked them by other methods. He designed and helped to construct many new instruments and devices, and his results on the measurement of absolute units showed an accuracy unrivalled at the time. Accounts of many of these researches, some of them written by himself, will be found in Glazebrook's "Dictionary of Applied Physics", vol. 2. The gradual evolution of the current balance, in which the electric attractions between currents in coils were balanced by weights, so that it became possible to measure a current in absolute measure and thus determine the ampere, was a triumph of

research. The agreement now arrived at by international physicists as to the absolute value of the units justifies the great skill and time expended in measuring them, in which Smith took a leading part. In addition to all the routine and research work he did, he was always pleased to discuss with his colleagues the problems in which they were mutually concerned. Among other important work he did at the Laboratory was his work on the 'current weigher' in collaboration with Ayrton and Mather. He co-operated with Duddell and Glazebrook in perfecting radio telegraphic apparatus for direction finding, and he also co-operated with some of the physicists at the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., in perfecting standards of electromotive force. His work with Rosa of this laboratory on standards of inductance was also of great value.

FROM 1920 until 1929, Sir Frank was director of scientific research, Admiralty; from 1929 until the present time he has been secretary to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He has been one of the secretaries to the British Association for Advancement of Science (1922-29) and a secretary of the Royal Society from 1929 until 1938. As an administrator he has been most successful, partly due to his tact and the many friendships he formed with leading men in the industrial and engineering