

News and Views

Prof. W. E. Le Gros Clark, F.R.S.

PROF. WILFRED E. LE GROS CLARK, whose appointment to the chair of anatomy at University College, London, vacant since the sudden death of Prof. H. H. Woollard in January last, will take effect as from October 1 next, has been professor of anatomy in the University of Oxford since 1934. Born on June 5, 1895, he was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and passed through the Medical School of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, where he was a pupil in anatomy of Prof. F. C. Parsons, well known as an anthropologist, and an authority on the physical characters of the peoples of Britain. During the Great War, Prof. Clark served in the R.A.M.C. with the rank of captain, and after demobilization was for two years principal medical officer of Sarawak, Borneo. He returned to England in 1922 and in 1924 became reader in anatomy in the University of London. Three years later, in 1927, he was appointed to the chair of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, transferring to the chair of anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1930 on the retirement of Prof. Parsons. Apart from his contributions to anatomical and medical journals, Prof. Le Gros Clark is the author of a number of authoritative studies on anthropological topics, including more particularly the physical characters of the Eskimo and the comparative morphology of early man and the anthropoids, his most considerable contribution to discussion of the latter being his "Early Forerunners of Man", which appeared in 1934.

Dutch Congress of Natural Science and Medicine

IN NATURE of May 27, p. 908, reference was made to the Dutch Congress of Natural Science and Medicine held at Nijmegen on April 11-13. A correspondent has sent the following notes on some of the medical papers. On the first day of this Congress the main medical paper was read before a very large audience by Prof. B. Brouwer, of Amsterdam. Prof. Brouwer spoke on the hydrodynamic intra-cranial and intra-vertebral conditions in connexion with the development of modern neuro-surgical diagnostic and operative technique. He showed very clearly the great importance which is attached to very simple physical examinations of the cerebral fluid and the ventricular system for the localization of intra-cranial and intra-vertebral space-occupying lesions. Prof. Brouwer stressed the point that ventricular estimation and ventriculography—when in safe hands—are of the greatest value for the early diagnosis of many intra-cranial space-occupying lesions. Dr. A. Biemond, of Amsterdam, spoke on the diagnosis of mid-line brain-tumours. Going over a list of the ante- and post-mortem findings of twenty mid-brain tumour cases, Dr. Biemond tried to divide this material into three groups, according to their clinical picture and their operability. The prognosis, how-

ever, of mid-brain tumours, even in the light of modern neuro-surgery, is not very hopeful, according to Dr. Biemond's experience. Very much in contrast with this paper was the contribution of Dr. F. Verbeek, of Groningen. Dr. Verbeek described the tremendous advances which have been made during the last twenty years in the neuro-surgical field. A review of his neuro-surgical patients gave much more hope that even the mid-brain tumours will be accessible for operative treatment. Dr. A. Brouwer (Eindhoven) spoke on the technique of X-ray photography. Dr. C. E. Burger (Eindhoven) dealt with X-ray photography as a method for mass examination in the attack on tubercular infection. Dr. J. H. van der Tuuk (Eindhoven) spoke on deep X-ray treatment and its measurement, with reference to apparatus operating up to one million volts.

Teachers in Technical Institutions

IN his presidential address at the annual conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions on May 29, Dr. E. A. Seeley commended the Spens Report as establishing the parity in status and value of the education given in junior technical schools with that given in 'grammar' and other post-primary schools, but blamed it for disparaging the cultural potentialities of junior commercial and household science schools. These should be given the opportunity of showing that they are capable of developing "on a broad scientific and realistic basis" an education equal in cultural as well as vocational value to that of the schools associated with engineering and building. Referring to the report presented to the Board of Education six months ago, without apparent result, on scholarships for students in technical colleges, Dr. Seeley urged that the nation cannot afford to let willing and competent students be kept from attendance at these colleges by lack of means, while allowing the places that should be occupied by them to be filled by anyone whose parents happen to be able to pay his fees. As regards relations with other associations of teachers, the hopes entertained last year of a workable scheme of federation are for the time being in abeyance. The address closes on the note "education for service"—the sense of responsibility of teachers to the community and the necessity of realizing the social implications of their work: they must train in citizenship as well as in technology.

Indian Education, Past and Present

THREE lectures on "Some Aspects of Indian Education, Past and Present" by Sir Philip Hartog, sometime vice-chancellor of the University of Dacca and president of the Auxiliary Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission on the Growth of Education of 1928-29, have recently been published