

Prof. Loewinson-Lessing's field work covered almost the whole of the territory of European and Asiatic Russia. He began his work in Karelia and the Caucasus and then extended his activity to the Crimea, the Ural Mountains and Siberia. His petrographical descriptions of the rocks of these regions were used as models by other petrologists. Field description, petrography and petrochemistry of rocks are well blended in all his works. In the domain of theoretical petrology, he is well known for his chemical classification of igneous rocks and his syntectic-liquational hypothesis of magmatic differentiation. In spite of the stress laid by him on liquation as a factor of differentiation, his views on this subject were rather eclectic.

As a teacher, Prof. Loewinson-Lessing was excellent. It is a matter for wonder that he could, in addition to all his research activities and his official duties, contrive to hold numerous classes for students. His lectures were always inspiring and he never lost his freshness of outlook or his mastery of presentation.

During a half-century of teaching he trained hundreds of geologists and petrologists. He will be affectionately remembered for his kindness and his help and inspiration by all his colleagues and pupils, among whom the present writer is proud to inscribe himself.

S. I. TOMKEIEFF.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. Viggo Christiansen, emeritus professor of neurology in the University of Copenhagen, president of the International Congress of Neurology held last August, on November 3, aged seventy-one years.

Dr. J. F. Lewis, past president of the Royal Photographic Society, on November 28, aged seventy-two years.

Sir Ernest Scott, emeritus professor of history in the University of Melbourne, and president in 1939 of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, aged seventy-one years.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Indian Archæology and Indian Problems

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY'S Birdwood Memorial Lecture to the Royal Society of Arts, on December 1, was in effect an addendum to his official report to the Government on the organization of archæological studies in India; and it should receive no less careful consideration than the major document when in due course it appears in print. For in the freer atmosphere of the lecture hall, Sir Leonard evidently felt at liberty to allow his trained faculty of scientific imagination to play on the archæological material which had come before him, and to submit the result to his audience in a selection of the problems and possibilities which the study of Indian archæology presents to his mind as calling urgently for investigation—problems no less fascinating in the vistas of the advancement of knowledge they open up than they are evocative of dismay when contemplation turns to the vastness of the field in time and space to be covered. Nor was any short cut offered which might lead by an easy way to the solution of these problems. While Sir Leonard paid due tribute to the work of Lord Curzon in setting up the Archæological Survey of India, and the work which has since been carried out in the triple function of conservation, excavation and publication, he went on to point out with the greatest emphasis that no further advance on sound lines is possible until the essential preliminary groundwork has been completed and a backbone has been built up in a sequence scheme of Indian cultural history. This is the essential task to which effort must first be directed.

It was suggested in NATURE of October 28, p. 721, that the inauguration of a new era in India's history might fittingly be marked by the institution on a

sound and lasting basis of a scheme of research and study on broad lines of the racial and cultural history of India. In such a scheme archæological investigation would inevitably take a foremost place. As Sir Leonard said, "The whole country from north to south is strewn with standing monuments of the greatest interest and the greatest beauty and the utmost historical value." He then pointed out that in his analysis of the cultural elements of the ancient monuments of India, certain factors had emerged, from which he proceeded to draw conclusions significant for the India of to-day. In the architecture of the monuments, he showed, the Mogul strain, working in stone, and the Dravidian, a style derivative from the technique of the worker in wood or even the jeweller, constituted a clash in styles reflecting a political and moral breach between two elements still represented in the population of to-day. Nevertheless, the clash had been resolved in the triumphs of the Taj Mahal, the Delhi fort, and more especially in Fatehpur Sikri, which showed conclusively that the genius of the two peoples "can combine fruitfully and fertilely". Novel views of the relation of north and south, thrown out as suggestions presented on the results of Sir Leonard's inspection of specified sites, offer a field of research which, when once the essential groundwork has been completed, might offer to the Indian peoples a source of unity in pride in their joint cultural achievement in the past.

School of Oriental and African Studies

NOTWITHSTANDING the transfer of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London to Christ's College, Cambridge, the building of the School's new premises in the University of London area is being pushed forward, and should be