

years between his retirement and his death he devoted himself to drawing, water-colour painting and etching. He spent his summers at Monhegan, Maine, and his friends paid tribute each year to his increasing artistic skill. Shortly before his death, he read a paper to a scientific club in Michigan in which he characterized himself in the following terms: "I have always been an optimist and I cannot claim to have ever been religious. I have thoroughly enjoyed life and feel that the finest one can do is to bring pleasures into the lives of others. In this I find a worthy reason for living and shall be glad to live as long as I can enjoy life and help others to do so."

J. F. FULTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. George Eumorfopoulos, the well-known collector of Chinese porcelain and other examples of Oriental art, on December 19, aged seventy-six years.

Prof. Eduard Fischer, professor of botany in the University of Bern from 1897 until 1933.

Senatore Prince Ginori Conti, a well-known Italian industrial chemist, on December 3.

Prof. A. J. Hopkins, emeritus professor of chemistry in Amherst College, known for his work on the early history of science, on November 10, aged seventy-five years.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Scientific Research and Technical Development

AN Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development has been set up by the Minister of Supply to advise him on scientific and technical problems. The main functions of the Council will be to ensure that the work of the Directorate of Scientific Research is carried out with due regard to recent advances in scientific knowledge, to introduce new fields of research and development, and to make recommendations regarding the most effective use of scientific personnel. The chairman of the Council is Lord Cadman, emeritus professor of mining and petroleum technology in the University of Birmingham, chairman of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Ltd. and of the Iraq Petroleum Co., Ltd. The Admiralty, Air Ministry, and Ministry of Home Security are also represented on the Council, of which the joint secretaries are Mr. E. T. Paris and Mr. F. Roffey, Ministry of Supply, Adelphi, W.C.2.

THE Council is constituted as follows: Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, professor of physics, University College, London; Dr. E. V. Appleton, secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Sir Joseph Barcroft, formerly professor of physiology, University of Cambridge; Prof. W. L. Bragg, Cavendish professor of physics, University of Cambridge; Major-General E. M. C. Clarke, director of artillery (military adviser), Ministry of Supply; Prof. J. D. Cockcroft, professor of natural philosophy, University of Cambridge; Major-General A. E. Davidson, controller of mechanization development (military adviser), Ministry of Supply; Dr. H. J. Gough, director of scientific research, Ministry of Supply; Dr. H. L. Guy, chief engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd.; Sir Harold Hartley, vice-president and director of research, L.M.S. Railway, and chairman of the Fuel Research Board; Prof. I. M. Heilbron, professor of organic chemistry, University of London; Prof. A. V. Hill, secretary, Royal Society, and Foulerton research professor (physiology); Prof.

R. S. Hutton, professor of metallurgy, University of Cambridge; Sir Robert Robertson, director of the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry, formerly Government chemist; Sir Robert Robinson, professor of chemistry, University of Oxford; Mr. J. Rogers, deputy director-general of explosives, Ministry of Supply; Sir Frank Smith, director of instrument production, Ministry of Supply, director of research, Anglo-Iranian Oil Co.; Prof. R. V. Southwell, professor of engineering, University of Oxford; Prof. G. I. Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society (engineering); Sir Maurice Taylor, senior military adviser, Ministry of Supply; Sir Henry Tizard, rector of Imperial College of Science, chairman, Aeronautical Research Committee.

### Early Man and his Forerunners

IN the two years 1937-39 a series of researches carried out by P. Teilhard de Chardin, Prof. Franz Weidenreich and their fellow-workers of the Cenozoic Research Laboratory of the Geological Survey of China, papers on which have only just reached Great Britain (see NATURE, December 23, p. 1054 and December 30, p. 1097) has made a notable contribution to anthropological study, not merely in so far as it deals with early man in China, but also in its bearing upon fundamental problems of the development of the human stock and the origin and distribution of its varieties. How far Teilhard de Chardin's suggested need for a revision of Tertiary and Quaternary classification in geology and palaeontology will be accepted as of general application may remain in abeyance for the moment; but his brilliant synthetic study of recent geological and palaeontological discovery provides a new diagnosis—in China at least—for the much-debated division between Pliocene and Pleistocene in the form of the definite break, almost catastrophic in its proportions, in fauna and physiographic conditions between the Nihowan and Choukoutien phases of the so-called Sanmenian, which is followed by the appearance of man, who in some sort, it may be suggested, now might be regarded as a characteristic fossil.