

NEWS AND VIEWS

Charles Chree Medal and Prize

THE Charles Chree Medal and Prize, founded by Miss Jessie Chree in memory of her brother, the late Dr. Charles Chree, is to be awarded biennially to men of science who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge in those subjects in which Dr. Chree was particularly interested, and to which he had made signal contributions. The responsibility for, and the administration of, the award has been placed by Miss Chree in the hands of the Physical Society, and the Council of the Society has made the first award of the Medal and Prize to Prof. Sydney Chapman. Many minds in many countries have contributed to the advancement of the science of geomagnetism, and there are few branches of physics in which international co-operation is more desirable. British physicists have played a full part in the development of the science—Norman, Gilbert, Halley, Sabine (may we claim Lamont?), and Chree himself, are outstanding names.

Prof. Chapman's contributions to the science are many and distinguished. His investigations of the diurnal variations and the separation of the solar and lunar effects have involved the handling of a mass of observations the magnitude of which has been well described as appalling. Prof. Chapman has analysed these observations with characteristic skill, devising new methods for the attack on this vast mass of data. Very important additions to our knowledge of the mechanism of the variations have resulted from Prof. Chapman's work. His analyses of the changes occurring in magnetic storms have resulted in a corpuscular theory of the origin of the storms. He has made weighty contributions to the critical literature of the subject and his latest volume, "Geomagnetism", written in collaboration with Prof. Bartels, is likely to remain for a long time the most detailed and authoritative treatment of the subject. The motto, *Sol rotatur magnetica respondet terra*, appears on the reverse of the Chree medal. This is a fitting comment on one aspect of the work of the recipient of the first Chree Medal.

Mrs. C. Neville-Rolfe, O.B.E.: Snow Medallist

AS announced in NATURE of January 25, p. 114, Mrs. Neville-Rolfe has been awarded the Snow Medal by the American Social Hygiene Association. The medal is given annually for distinguished services to humanity. This was the first time the medal has been awarded outside the United States, and the only occasion on which it has been given to a woman. Mrs. Neville-Rolfe has been not without honour in her own country, but her qualities of courage and service have been, perhaps, more clearly seen by those interested in the promotion of social welfare in the great American republic. She is the eldest daughter of the late Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Cecil Burney, Bart.; her husband is Commander Clive

Neville-Rolfe, who is at present on active service; while her brother is Commander Sir Dennistoun Burney, Bart, also on active and special service. Courage, therefore, comes naturally to her, and during the War of 1914–18 she saw where certain work was necessary, where no one else was doing it. It was not easy or popular work, and brought a good deal of prejudice to those who formed what is now known as the British Social Hygiene Council to fight one of the most serious and insidious forms of illness which, during and after the War of 1914–18, created considerable havoc both among individuals and homes in Great Britain.

Since that time, Mrs. Neville-Rolfe has been distinguished in pioneering effort, she has covered the whole country of Great Britain, lecturing, interviewing and organizing. She has taken her message overseas to Malta, Cyprus, India, Malaya, Hong Kong and the West Indies, and the Colonial Office has shown its appreciation of her work. She has visited and lectured in the United States, and is widely known as an eloquent and impressive speaker and as a pioneer in social welfare. It is good at this time to see that British and American people and organizations are appreciating each others qualities of service, and the bestowal of the Snow Medal on such an outstanding woman of Great Britain by the American Social Hygiene Association is a gratifying proof of this development.

Education in Social Hygiene

WHILE various professional organizations are interested in the vocational aspects of biology in education, and others are associated with certain special parts, it has been left to the Educational Advisory Board of the British Social Hygiene Council almost alone to concern itself with the value of biology as a medium of genuine education for people of all types and of all ages. Over the last three years, during which he has held the position of education officer to the Board, Mr. T. H. Hawkins has been working for a more generous appreciation of biology in the schools. His work has brought him into constant touch with educational authorities in all parts of the country, and much of his time has been taken up with conferences and discussions of problems of teaching technique. In recent months he has been active in the new movement for the service of youth, giving talks to adolescent boys on personal development and human biology. His position has been one calling for personal initiative, human insight, knowledge of public administration, and ability to get on with people of all shades of opinion.

Now, in relinquishing his post to take up an educational appointment in Trinidad under the Colonial Office, he is presented with a fresh field for his endeavours, in which problems of human biology