

The earliest Viking houses were oblong on plan, with rounded ends. The walls were about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. thick and the same in height, and on the top of them rested the edge of the roof of timber and turf, supported by a row of wooden posts along each side of the interior. The ordinary rooms were three in number: the dining- and living-room known as the *stofa*; the sleeping-room or *skali*; the kitchen or *eldhus*. The Shetland example was a typical long house measuring, in its original state, 95 ft. in length by 12 ft. at either end, and 18 ft. at the centre.

At Freshwick a bath house was discovered. It was a small chamber, forming a somewhat irregular square of about 5 ft., with an entrance

by a step in one side. The floor was carefully paved, except for a small area, in one corner where the fireplace had been, and which was filled with burnt broken stones and peat ash. From the floor a well-fashioned drain led through the wall of the chamber, and, continuing beneath covers along the floor of the main building, eventually discharged by way of an offset into a sump.

This was a typical vapour-bath, such as had been used in Scandinavian countries since early times, and which may still be met with there in country districts.

¹ Childe, "Prehistoric Communities", p. 183.

² Childe, *ibid.*

OBITUARIES

Dr. R. Bracher

DR. ROSE BRACHER, who died after a short illness on July 15, was born in 1894, the elder daughter of Reuben Bracher, a well-known teacher in Salisbury. She was educated in Salisbury and at the University of Bristol, where she graduated with first-class honours in botany in 1917. A year later she took her M.Sc. and then spent two years as demonstrator in the London School of Medicine for Women. The award of the Rose-Sidgwick fellowship allowed her to spend a year at Wisconsin, after which she returned to London as lecturer at East London College. In 1924 she came to Bristol to undertake research work; in 1926 she became assistant lecturer in the Department of Botany and in 1929 lecturer. In 1940 she was appointed senior lecturer—a title reserved for those who have given distinguished service to the University. A month ago she was elected a member of the Senate.

Dr. Bracher's principal scientific work was a study of the ecology of the great tidal mud-banks of the Bristol Avon and especially of the species of *Euglena*, which is the most conspicuous feature of its vegetation. *Euglena* appears on the surface and sinks into the mud with a rhythm which is largely caused by variations in illumination, and Dr. Bracher succeeded in working out in detail the part played by light and other factors in this striking phenomenon. The results were published in three distinguished papers in the *Annals of Botany* (1919), the *Journal of Ecology* (1929) and the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society* (1937). During the last ten years she was constantly engaged, along with her students, in work on the ecology of the Bristol district; the results have appeared in a series of papers of the greatest use to students of the vegetation of Somerset. As another consequence of this work she published two books, "Field Studies in Ecology" and "Ecology in Town and Classroom", which have been of especial use to teachers, showing, as they do, how interesting work

can be carried on even in very unfavourable conditions.

Dr. Bracher was an admirable teacher and her services were much in demand for extra-mural work. She had notable success in rousing to an interest in biology members of W.E.A. classes and of others of that kind. In the University she had an unrivalled knowledge of the students, their problems and difficulties, and for some years she had been warden of the Women Home Students' Society. The tragedy of her early death is felt by a wide circle of colleagues and friends.

M. SKENE.

Sir Francis Anderson

THE death is announced of Sir Francis Anderson, emeritus professor of philosophy in the University of Sydney.

Sir Francis, who was eighty-two years of age, must have been almost the last survivor of that remarkable succession of pupils of Edward Caird (professor of moral philosophy in the University of Glasgow during 1866–1894) who themselves attained eminence as professors of philosophy. After an outstanding undergraduate career, crowned in 1893 by the award of first-class honours and the Clark fellowship in mental philosophy, Anderson spent two years as Caird's assistant, two years as assistant minister of the Australian Church in Melbourne, and then started upon his long and fruitful career as a teacher of philosophy in the University of Sydney—first as lecturer, and later, from 1890 until 1922, as professor in the newly founded chair of logic and mental philosophy.

Among the distinctions which marked this period were the presidency of the Mental Science Section of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science in 1897, and the presidency of the Social Science Section in 1907. Retirement from academic duties brought no abatement in his philo-

sophic interests, and from 1923 until 1927 he acted as editor of the *Australasian Journal of Psychology and Philosophy*. In 1927 his Alma Mater recognized his notable services to learning by conferring upon him the degree of doctor of laws. In his later years the cause of the League of Nations claimed much of his time and energy, and he was, from 1931 until 1936, president of the League of Nations Union (New South Wales). In 1936 he was created a knight.

Sir Francis's contribution to the literature of his subject was chiefly in the form of papers; but although he produced no major philosophical work, his influence upon the development of philosophical studies in the land of his adoption was powerful and widespread. The sphere of his academic influence and interests, however, extended far beyond the narrowly philosophical. The social sciences in general found in

him an enthusiastic and untiring champion. Indeed the successive establishment in the University of Sydney of chairs in education (1910), economics (1912) and psychology (1920) was in no small measure due to his energetic advocacy. C. A. CAMPBELL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. C. S. Fisher, acting director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, on July 20, aged sixty-five.

Prof. O. L. Shinn, professor of applied chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, on June 10, aged sixty-nine.

Dr. L. A. Strong, chief of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, on June 2, aged fifty-four.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Sir Prafulla Chandra Rây, C.I.E.

ON August 7 the distinguished Indian chemist, Sir P. C. Rây, will celebrate his eightieth birthday. As a young student, Sir Prafulla was fortunate in coming under the influence of the late Sir Alexander Pedler, then professor of chemistry at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and on his recommendation Sir Prafulla proceeded to work under the late Prof. Crum Brown at Edinburgh, where in due course he graduated with the degree of D.Sc. Returning to India he became professor of chemistry at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and he remained in this post until his retirement under the age limit in 1916. He was then appointed Palit professor of chemistry at the University College of Science, retiring owing to failing eyesight in 1937. Valuable as have been Sir Prafulla's personal investigations, mainly in the field of nitrite chemistry, his outstanding contribution has been the foundation of an Indian school of chemistry. A true 'guru', devoting much of his income to the support of poor students, he sent forth from his laboratories a constant stream of young chemists fired with a zeal for original research. These young chemists now occupy most of the chairs of chemistry in Indian universities.

Sir Prafulla's interests have not been confined solely to academic research; his historical sense is shown in his "History of Hindu Chemistry", and he was responsible also for the foundation of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works. Naturally, Sir Prafulla's important work for India has received general recognition. He was appointed C.I.E. in 1912 and was knighted in 1916. He is a fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and of other Indian academies, and an honorary graduate of the Universities of Durham and Calcutta. He was president of the Indian Science Congress in 1920 and the first president of the Indian Chemical Society (1924). We trust that he may long be spared to inspire Indian youth.

Great Britain and the U.S.S.R.

IN NATURE of July 19, p. 79, brief reference was made to a broadcast from Moscow by Prof. P. Kapitza, which was addressed particularly to scientific workers in Great Britain. Prof. Vladimir Vernadsky, a veteran mineralogist and member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., also broadcast a message. These friendly gestures brought a reply from Prof. A. V. Hill, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society, who broadcast greetings to Russian colleagues and a reply to Prof. Kapitza in the European News sent out by the B.B.C. at midnight on July 14. Since then the Royal Society has dispatched the following cable: "President and Council of Royal Society London send greetings of Royal Society to National Academy of Sciences of U.S.S.R. Moscow. Our countries stand firm as partners in struggle against wanton aggression and our united efforts will ensure that the future of science is not endangered by destruction of those freedoms in which has thrived the work of the great scientists of both our countries enshrined in records of past and achievements of present. In the struggle science has already made and will continue to make essential contributions to victory."

Other bodies and individuals have joined in expressing their satisfaction that the U.S.S.R. can now be numbered among the Allies fighting against Nazi domination. The committee of the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science of the British Association has sent to the Academy of Sciences at Moscow a cable welcoming the alliance of British and Russian science, and expressing the hope that they "may in the near future be united in application to the establishment of a new and happier ordering of the affairs of mankind". The Cambridge branch of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. sent a cable signed by the vice-chancellor and other members of the University