

He was president of Section H of the British Association in 1934, his address taking the form of an original piece of research into the origins of yerba maté or 'Paraguayan tea'. He contributed articles to the "Encyclopædia Britannica" and to a number of more popular serials such as Harmsworth's "Universal History of the World" and Hammerton's "Wonders of the Past", as well as to certain foreign scientific journals. He was honorary secretary of the Hakluyt Society in 1923. In 1938, at the age of sixty, he retired from the British Museum owing to ill-health.

In spite of his erudition in his chosen subjects of ethnology and American archaeology, Joyce carried his learning lightly, and his work was infused with an unaffected gaiety. Possessed of a happy and sociable temperament, and a ready wit, he never wearied of introducing students or visitors to his favourite subjects, or of trying to inspire in them a genuine interest in the collections under his charge; his influence led to a number of important benefactions, and was felt indirectly in many ways. As a foremost authority on all aspects of American archaeology he leaves no immediate successor in Great Britain.

It was with sincere sorrow that his many friends noted, during his latter years, the signs of failing health in a constitution never very robust. But while illness inevitably led to the curtailment of his scientific work, it never succeeded in quenching the indomitable cheerfulness of his spirit.

He is survived by Mrs. Joyce, herself a leading authority on the Latin American countries, though perhaps better known to the public under her maiden name of L. E. Elliott. He had three children by an earlier marriage. H. J. BRAUNHOLTZ.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir William Bragg, O.M., K.B.E., F.R.S., director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and, during 1935-40, president of the Royal Society, on March 12, aged seventy-nine.

Prof. Lawrence J. Henderson, professor of chemistry in Harvard University, foreign secretary of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, aged sixty-three.

Dr. George Senter, formerly principal of Birkbeck College, University of London, on March 14, aged sixty-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

India

THE announcement made by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons on March 11 that definite proposals have been formulated, and are being submitted to the leaders of Indian thought, for terminating the state of political unrest in that great country, will be welcomed on all sides. The Government made a pronouncement in August 1940 of the general principles upon which British rule in India was proceeding, indicating that full Dominion status would be granted as soon as possible after the War, under a constitution to be framed by Indians and acceptable to the chief elements of Indian national life, subject to the protection of minorities and to the fulfilment of Imperial obligations to the native States. This promise did not satisfy certain classes of opinion, and there has been bitter controversy, notably between the Congress party and the Moslem League. Reference has been made in NATURE on several occasions to the difficulties of the situation, and a noteworthy and constructive article on the subject by Sir Denys Bray, formerly Foreign Secretary, Government of India, appeared in NATURE of September 13, 1941, p. 301.

Mr. Churchill has now stated that the War Cabinet has agreed upon certain "conclusions for present and future action", based upon the general declaration already referred to, and Sir Stafford Cripps has volunteered to take these proposals to India. There he will strive to obtain the necessary assent to them from the chief parties of the country. In view of the grave turn taken by the War in the Far East, Sir Stafford will also consult with the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief regarding the relation of these proposals to the defence of the country. The intervention of the War Cabinet at this critical juncture is a measure of the importance attached to the promotion of unity of purpose and action in India, and the outcome of Sir Stafford Cripps's mission will be awaited with keen interest.

Wheatmeal Flour and Bread

SPEAKING in the House of Lords on March 11, Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, announced that in order to reduce the very considerable tonnage of shipping used for the import of wheat into Great Britain, the Government has decided to increase to 85 per cent the ratio of flour from wheat milled in the country. From March 23 millers will be prohibited, except under specific licence, from manufacturing any flour other than wheatmeal flour, or some authorized speciality brown flour. This increased milling ratio entails the diversion of some of the products of wheat from the feeding of livestock to use as human food. But the change has been timed to take place when, with the approach of summer, it will not be necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture to change, from now until the end of August, the scale of rations of purchased feeding-stuffs allowed to stock and poultry feeders.

In order to absorb the stocks of white flour, no miller, factor, or importer will be permitted to deliver any white flour to any person other than a licensed baker, and then only providing that three times the quantity of national wheatmeal is concurrently delivered. Further, bakers will be authorized when producing national wheatmeal bread to include up to 25 per cent of white flour with the national wheatmeal. From April 6 it will not be permissible, except under licence, to sell any white bread, and a similar order referring to the use of flour in any other item of food will come into effect on April 20. Lord Woolton said that, while complete uniformity in the production of wheatmeal flour and bread is not possible, he is satisfied that we shall get a good bread, good in substance, good in texture, and agreeable to the palate. The composition and nutritive value of wheatmeal and similar bread have frequently been discussed in NATURE; attention may be directed especially to articles in the issues of May 31, 1941 (p. 665) and August 23, 1941 (p. 219).