but was carried out personally by this busy business man in his limited leisure. The success which he achieved in his experimental work showed that had he elected to become a professional scientist he would have been as eminent as he was in his chosen profession.

Dr. Macaulay contributed generously to numerous causes both in Canada and Great Britain. In memory of his forebears he gave many thousands of pounds for educational, hospital, welfare and other purposes in Lewis and in Fraserburgh, but his benefactions were national as well as local. He was interested in genetics and in research on the endocrine glands, and contributed large sums to the Animal Breeding Research Department of the University of Edinburgh. Probably he will be remembered best as the founder of the Soil Research Institute at Aberdeen which bears his name. The buildings and equipment, including a demonstration farm on peatland in Lewis, were provided by Dr. Macaulay on the understanding that the Government would meet the cost of maintenance. He possessed tireless energy and unbounded enthusiasm. One of his ambitions was to bring about an improvement of the poorer classes of land in Scotland and during his visits to the country much of his time was spent in furthering this object. His influence with the crofters in Lewis was very great and he succeeded in bringing about many improvements where others had failed. The results of peat reclamation experiments carried out in Lewis were later applied by the Macaulay Institute in the successful reclamation of peatland in Lanarkshire on behalf of the Commissioner for the Special Areas.

It was my privilege to become one of Dr. Macaulay's friends and to stay with him several times in Canada, where I saw something of his happy home circle and of his scientific pursuits. He was a man of great sincerity and strength of character, kindly and always anxious to help his fellows. He lived simply and gave generously.

It was a source of great satisfaction to him during his last visit to Great Britain four years ago to stay at the Institute which he was instrumental in founding and to see the realization of some of his cherished ambitions.

W. G. Ogg.

Mr. F. J. Selby, C.B.E.

MR. FRANCIS JAMES SELBY, C.B.E., one of the small band of workers who formed the staff of the National Physical Laboratory in its early days and helped to develop it from small beginnings to an institution of world-wide renown, died on March 5. He joined the staff in 1903 to take charge of the prediction of tides which the Laboratory was about to carry out for the Indian Government, and to establish a Division for Optics to supplement the work of the Observatory Department at Kew. Selby was also secretary to the Director, an office which, if the range of his activities were considered, would have been better described as secretary of the Laboratory. In this position, which he made one of great importance in the Laboratory organization, he took a large share of administrative responsibility. His sympathy with the policy of Sir Richard Glazebrook particularly fitted him for this work, and those who knew the Laboratory well realized that it was no less fortunate in its secretary than in its first director. Everyone trusted him and valued his judgment and advice.

In 1909 Glazebrook was appointed chairman of the newly formed Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; Selby was chosen and continued as secretary until 1919, when the committee was replaced by the Aeronautical Research Committee. His services were recognized by the award of the C.B.E.

In 1918, shortly before the Government accepted financial responsibility for the Laboratory in place of the Royal Society, the office of Secretary of the Laboratory was formally established, with Selby as the first holder. In the following year Sir Joseph Petavel became director, and Selby continued to give most loyal service. He retired in 1932 on reaching the age of sixty-five.

Selby's special training was in mathematics, first at University College, London, where he greatly appreciated the teaching of Karl Pearson, and afterwards at Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated as sixth wrangler in 1891 and later became mathematical master first at Bristol Grammar School and then at Repton. At the Laboratory, Selby retained a keen interest both in mathematics and in education. There was probably no important paper on relativity or the quantum theory that he did not read critically. He took an active interest in the further education of junior members of the Laboratory staff.

On his retirement, Selby intended to write a history of the early days of the National Physical Laboratory, a task for which he had unique qualifications. Unfortunately, little more than two years after his retirement, when the work was only partly done, he had a stroke and his memory was affected to an extent which made the completion of the history impossible.

Selby was twice married, and is survived by a daughter.

T. SMITH.

Mr. C. Oldham

CHARLES OLDHAM was born at Lincoln on April 16, 1865, but at the age of six the family went to live at Sale in Cheshire. It was at the preparatory school there that began the life-long friendship with T. A. Coward that was later to bear fruit in the classical account of the "Birds of Cheshire".

Until his retirement in 1927, the claims of his professional duties as assistant manager of the Manchester office and later of the London office of the Commercial Union Insurance Company, permitted him little leisure to pursue his scientific studies. Despite this temporal handicap, he became an acknowledged authority on British malacology and ornithology. He it was who contributed the field notes for the first edition of Witherby's "Handbook of British Birds", and he made notable contributions to the study of British land and freshwater Mollusca and especially in the critical genus of the *Pisidia*, his specimens of which are now in the national collection. It is at once a tribute to his characteristic thoroughness and physical endurance that, in the course of the study of this group, he examined almost all the very large number of tarns in North Wales.

Oldham was a field naturalist of the best type, outstanding alike in the accuracy of his observations and the breadth of his knowledge, and by no means the least valuable of his services was his influence upon those with whom he came in contact. For ten years Oldham was one of the honorary secretaries of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society and its president in 1920. His annual reports on the birds

of that county were models of discriminating observation. For twenty-three years he was treasurer of the Conchological Society and he served as vice-president of the Linnean Society, the Ray Society, the British Ornithological Union, the Malacological Society, the British Ecological Society, and on the committee of the British Ornithological Club.

Like all men who possess not mere ability but also wisdom, Oldham was essentially modest and his published papers, though numerous and valuable, are but a poor indication of the profundity and wealth of the knowledge that was so freely placed at the disposal of others. To accompany him in the field was to enjoy a liberal education and to share the riches of a well-plenished mind, whilst the privilege of his friendship was both an inspiration and a stimulus. His loss to science is the greater because in these days of "learning more and more about less and less", the number of those who combine the insight of the specialist with a balanced perspective is growing fewer although the need for them increases.

E. J. SALISBURY.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Lieut.-Commander L. C. Bernacchi, who was physicist to the Southern Cross Antarctic Expedition, 1901-4, on April 24, aged sixty-five.

Prof. H. L. Bowman, Waynflete professor of mineralogy and crystallography in the University of Oxford, on April 22, aged seventy-seven.

Dr. Arthur Michael, emeritus professor of organic chemistry at Harvard University, on February 8, aged eighty-eight.

Prof. Carl Oppenheimer, editor of *Tabulae Biologicae*, *Enzymologia* and author of well-known books on biochemistry, aged sixty-seven, on December 24, at The Hague.

Colonel M. O. Tandy, O.B.E., formerly of the Survey of India, on April 18, aged sixty-eight.

Dr. W. E. Thrift, provost of Trinity College, Dublin, and formerly Erasmus Smith professor of natural and experimental philosophy in the College, on April 23, aged seventy-one.

NEWS and VIEWS

Planning and Rebuilding in Britain

In his first official statement in the House of Lords as Minister of Works and Buildings, Lord Portal emphasized that the policy initiated by his predecessor, Lord Reith, still holds good. Lord Portal was replying to inquiries by the Bishop of Winchester, who voiced the wide anxiety as to whether the recent changes at the Ministry of Works and Buildings meant a change in the Government's intentions. He emphasized that unless planning took a prominent place in housing reconstruction, there would be chaos through the rivalry of competing authorities and uneconomic use would be made of the land, with the attendant spectacle of distressed areas.

Lord Portal explained that the broad objective of the new Ministry would be the right use of the land of Great Britain for all purposes. The Minister would have the responsibility of seeing that policies in regard to agriculture, transport, etc., were properly co-ordinated. Further legislation will be introduced in the light of reports to be submitted very shortly by Mr. Justice Uthwatt and Mr. Justice Scott. Considerable reduction in the number of planning authorities has already been made by voluntary arrangement. Lord Portal also said he is working in close collaboration with the Paymaster-General in considering the relation of planning to the need for the preservation of areas of natural beauty and especially the coastline. With regard to the building industry, it would be essential that, directly the War ends, the industry should be ready, through organization, to cope with the demands which would be made on it. The personnel of the industry would have to be dealt with on a new basis.

The Central and Supplementary Registers

THE Minister of Labour stated last winter that it was proposed to merge the Central and Supplementary Registers in a new Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. This has now been done. The Central Register covers those with scientific and technical qualifica-

tions, while the Supplementary Register includes those with administrative and managerial qualifications and others, not on the Central Register, with scientific and professional qualifications. It is stated that there is now a lack of men in nearly every branch covered by the Central Register. As regards the Supplementary Register, every effort will be made by the new Appointments Department to make the best use of the varied qualifications which are represented. The Register will be revised at intervals of two months, and it is intended to arrange personal interviews with all those whose names are on it. It will be decentralized to some thirty appointments offices outside London, all of which will be linked with the Appointments Department in London at Sardinia Street, Kingsway, W.C.2. The Central Register is being moved to the same address. These Registers, if properly handled, should prove of immense value in assessing the professional resources of the country for both present and future needs.

Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction

THE Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction, Ltd., is incorporated as a limited company not for purpose of profit, and its board is responsible for the direction and co-ordination of research into post-war problems. While the policy of the Association is to co-operate with individuals, organizations and local and national authorities, it does not itself undertake direct works of reconstruction. Its object is to serve as a centre for research, for which purpose it employs a small trained research staff, and to advise and to suggest, as well as to correlate experience. It also endeavours to train a nucleus of men and women in the technique of planning in its broadest sense. The work of the School of Planning and Research for National Development is now carried on through the Association.

The Association has issued a series of four-page broadsheets setting out simply and concisely the results of each piece of research. Of the broadsheets