It is no disparagement of these earlier and more speculative works to say that Cornford's most permanent achievement is to be found in the post-war books, "Plato's Theory of Knowledge", "Plato's Cosmology" and "Plato and Parmenides", in which he translated and interpreted four important Platonic dialogues. Departing from the ordinary form of commentary, he skilfully interwove translation with running comment in such a way as to produce books which can be read as continuous wholes. To readers with scientific interests the edition of the "Timæus" called "Plato's Cosmology" will probably appeal most strongly: it reveals perhaps most fully its author's many-sided knowledge and power of argument; few classical scholars could have dealt so successfully with the problems of astronomy and physics, physiology and medical theory which the "Timæus" presents.

Jointly with P. H. Wicksteed he translated Aristotle's "Physics" in the Loeb series, and the notes and summaries marked by his initial show how competent he was to interpret Aristotle's discussion of such fundamental concepts of science as time, space, movement and infinity. About a year ago his last book appeared, a translation of the "Republic", of which it can only be said here that it is more than a translation, and makes an excellent introduction to Plato for the 'unprofessional' reader.

Much important work of Cornford's is contained in periodicals, especially in the *Classical Quarterly*: it includes an examination of the Pythagorean number-doctrine, a paper on "Innumerable Worlds", and a new interpretation of Anaxagoras's theory of matter. Finally, his chapters on philosophy down to Aristotle in the "Cambridge Ancient History" can be warmly recommended to anyone wishing to make a first acquaintance with ancient thought.

R. HACKFORTH.

Sir Henry Maybury, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., C.B.

SIR HENRY MAYBURY, who died on January 7 at the age of seventy-eight, was a wholesome-looking, thick-set man with a capable headpiece, a general friendly attitude towards his fellows and a tendency to come to decisions to which he adhered with what admirers called his determination and critics his obstinacy. His first fame came when he was surveyor to the County of Kent (1903). That was about the time when a friend and I were organizing the Gordon Bennet motor race in Ireland. Its description by a jarvey illustrates the position: "Those parts of Oireland that's not consailed wid dust is covered wid people".

In circumstances like these, Maybury made his successful efforts in Kent to abate the intolerable dust which cursed the early days of the motor era. He courageously used tar-bound instead of water-bound macadam, and soon found he had achieved the great advance of making roads waterproof. He pushed forward with it with insistence, was hailed as a saviour by the owners of riparian property, and made Kent roads a model for the rest of the country.

Somewhere on Salisbury Plain a number of consecutive lengths of road all bearing the same traffic (that is, with no side junctions) and suitable for considerable speeds were prepared, each according to a different formula. The run being substantially free from bends and the surface level, it called for no stops, starts, accelerations, swerves or brakings. As these are the chief causes of road wear, no perceptible

deterioration or wear by vehicles revealed itself. What did transpire was that the waterproofing with tar, bitumen or the like minimized what is a substantial source of road costs, even in unused roads, namely, land creepage, vegetation, weeds and, above all, deterioration by sun, rain and frost. The waterproofing would pay for itself in upkeep economy. Before long, water-bound macadam, gravel, and slippery roads made with chalky marl began to disappear.

Maybury was no researcher. His training as a railway engineer inclined him rather to the *ad hoc* experiment. Besides, the Harmondsworth Research Station for road materials to which so much of recent progress must be referred was not then in its stride. As chief engineer to the Road Board (1913) and later as chairman of the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee (from 1924) he accumulated much traffic experience. There came before him the noteworthy reports of the Metropolitan Police between 1920-27. They revealed year after year for seven years that high vehicle speeds occupied a far smaller place in the records of fatal accidents in town than did low speeds. Speeds not exceeding walking pace (less than 5 m.p.h.) were concerned in six times more deaths than were all speeds above 20 m.p.h. Moreover, a predominant majority (80 per cent) of fatal accidents occurred when the previous speed of the vehicles involved had been less than 15 m.p.h. On this Sir Henry Maybury's ripe experience led to the notable phrase often quoted from Report No. 61434-12: "A careful examination of these reports clearly indicates that there is an intimate connexion between the number of street accidents and traffic congestion". That was a new idea.

The moral is clear. Unfortunately for safe traffic flow afoot or awheel in Greater London, Sir Henry resigned in 1933, and now many of us sincerely deplore the final loss of his clear-sighted "obstinacy".

MERVYN O'GORMAN.

Prof. F. J. Allen

DR. FRANK JAMES ALLEN died on December 28 at Letchworth; he was born in Somerset in 1854. He went to Cambridge to study medicine and came under the influence of Michael Foster, and was one of the many physiologists who was inspired by that great teacher. He was awarded first-class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1878. He went to St. George's Hospital, London, where he studied clinical medicine, and later became an assistant medical registrar at that Hospital.

Sometime after qualifying in medicine, Allen returned to Cambridge as assistant demonstrator in physiology under Foster. He was elected a member of the Physiological Society in 1888, and later became a member of the Committee of that Society. He was appointed professor of physiology at Mason College, Birmingham, in 1888, and played a part in the negotiations which led to the formation of the University of Birmingham. He resigned his professorship in 1898 to enter general practice.

While in Birmingham, Prof. Allen gallantly captured a dog suffering from rabies and in doing so he was bitten by the animal. He went to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for treatment, and described his experiences as a patient at the Institute in the *Birmingham Medical Review* of 1898. The success of the treatment he received at the Institute is evident by the fact that he lived for a further forty-five years.

In his younger days, Allen made several contributions to physiological knowledge, and later devoted his spare time to a study of ecclesiastical architecture, publishing a book, "Great Church Towers of England", in 1932.

Allen was a widely read and cultured man, very modest and unaffected, and though many of his generation have passed away he is remembered by those who knew him with great affection.

H. P. GILDING.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. A. K. Cajander, formerly professor of forestry in the University of Helsinki and director-general of the State Board of Forestry in Finland, who was Prime Minister of Finland during 1922-24 and 1938-39 and Minister of Defence during 1928-29, on January 21, aged sixty-three.

Capt. B. S. Cohen, formerly director of the Post Office Research Station at Dollis Hill, London, aged sixty-nine

Prof. Edmund S. Conklin, formerly head of the Department of Psychology, University of Indiana, on October 6, aged fifty-eight.

Mr. A. H. Cornish-Bowden, for many years surveyor-general to the Government of the Union of South Africa, on December 5, aged seventy-one.

Prof. J. F. Craig, professor of veterinary pathology in the University of Liverpool.

Dr. Cyril Crossland, the first director of the Marine Biological Station at Ghardaqa, Gulf of Suez, on January 7, aged sixty-four.

Lord Hirst, honorary member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, chairman of the General Electric Company, on January 23, aged seventy-nine.

Dr. A. L. Lowell, emeritus president of Harvard University, where his tenure of office, 1909-33, covered a critical period in university affairs, on January 6, aged eighty-six.

Dr. Alexander Russell, F.R.S., formerly principal of Faraday House, London, on January 14, aged eighty-one.

Prof. J. Strohl, professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the University of Zurich.

NEWS and VIEWS

Science in the Service of Art

SIR KENNETH CLARK, director of the National Gallery, has sent the following notes referring to the article on "The National Gallery in War-time" by Mr. F. Ian G. Rawlins which appears on p. 123 of this issue. Mr. Rawlins has been scientific advisor to the National Gallery since 1934. To him the Gallery owes its admirable laboratory with X-ray, infra-red and ultra-violet ray apparatus, and equipment for microscope, tintometer and spectroscopy work; and when the War began he was conducting important researches into the structure of pigments and the physical condition of old paintings. A few of his experiments in radiology are contained in the publication "From the National Gallery Laboratory", which was reviewed in NATURE of February 8, 1941, p. 165. In the years before the War, he was also closely concerned with the methods by which the pictures might be safely evacuated, and when finally it became desirable to place the whole collection in entirely bomb-proof subterranean vaults, he was responsible both for the discovery of a suitable site and for planning the equipment described in the accompanying article.

In the construction of the shelters and installation of plant, Mr. Rawlins worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Works engineers, and thanks to his foresight and attention to detail all the difficulties of this ambitious undertaking have been completely overcome. From the point of view of physical conditions, there is no doubt that the National Gallery pictures are better off than they have ever been or will be in the future. Mr. Rawlins's work did not cease when all the plant was installed and in working order. Constant vigilance is necessary to keep the perfect balance of temperature and humidity. In this work Mr. Rawlins has been ably assisted by Mr. Martin Davies, the member of the Gallery staff in charge of the depot, who has brought efficiency and unsparing devotion to the task of conserving the nation's pictures.

Polish Homage to Newton

THE Association of Polish Technicians in Great Britain held a special tercentenary celebration of Isaac Newton, under the chairmanship of Prof. Max Born, in the Mathematical Institute of the University of Edinburgh, on January 17. Addresses were delivered by Prof. E. T. Whittaker and Dr. S. Neumark, formerly *dozent* in aeronautics in the University of Warsaw, and now a flight lieutenant in the Polish Air Force. He was introduced by Major Chodacki, formerly High Commissioner for Danzig. Prof. Whittaker remarked that as the celebration had occurred in 1943, it had fallen in the same year as the quadricentenary of the death of Copernicus. Dr. Neumark, in his lecture in Polish, demonstrated Newton's decisive contribution in the development of natural science by means of a chronological diagram. This represented Newton as the central figure receiving the inheritance of the previous preparatory period, and extending his creative influence all over the world and over numerous fundamental branches of science. Newton's principal discoveries in the fields of mathematics, mechanics, astronomy, optics, aerodynamics, theory of heat and general foundations of natural science were described and illustrated by simple mnemonic diagrams. A rough classification of the whole of Newton's work showed that he made the incredible number of thirty discoveries of the first importance, each of which would have sufficed to confer permanent glory upon the discoverer. Newton's direct practical contributions to industry and to the progress of Britain were illustrated by his work at the Royal Mint, his remarkable steps towards developing mass production and his influence as president of the Royal Society. Dr. Neumark ended his lecture with a brief discussion of the unique problem which Newton's scientific personality offers to students of human creative power and genius. The linking of the centenaries of Newton and Copernicus is a happy prospective for the future relations between science in Britain and Poland.