

At Oxford he came under the influence of Haverfield, who deepened the interest in Roman Britain which he had already caught from his father. But philosophy claimed him, and it was a philosophical fellowship to which he was elected at Pembroke College in 1912. Always too absorbed in his studies to have much time for social distractions, he had comparatively few close friends, although his attachment to those he had, like theirs to him, was deep and lasting. No less enduring was the regard of his pupils, for on them he lavished the resources of his vigorous and original mind, placing philosophical problems in their historical context and illuminating them with his extraordinary power of graphic exposition.

During his years at Pembroke he was working equally strenuously at excavating Roman sites, collecting inscriptions, and re-interpreting the history of Roman Britain. His work in these fields was recorded in a long series of publications, culminating in "The Archaeology of Roman Britain" and finally in the first volume of the "Oxford History of England", on which his fame as an historian securely rests. It was as much for his historical as for his philosophical work that he was elected a fellow of the British Academy and given the honorary degree of LL.D. at St. Andrews.

In philosophy his aim was to persuade philosophers that history was as important for their investigations as physical science. In this aim his work is meeting with some success, although his own philosophy has not yet been so widely accepted as his history. His standing as a philosopher will probably rest ultimately on his "Essay on Philosophical Method"; his later books, "The Principles of Art", "An Essay on Metaphysics", and "The New Leviathan", all con-

tain original thinking of the highest order, and they are written with a lucidity and verve uncommon in philosophical works, but they lack the finish of the earlier book, and over parts of them there hangs the shadow of his increasing ill-health.

Insomnia and overwork had begun to undermine his strength even before he became Waynflete professor of metaphysical philosophy at Oxford in 1935; and the hope that his new office, by easing his teaching burden, might enable him to recuperate and to expound his own philosophy *in extenso* was only partially fulfilled. After a serious breakdown in 1938 he fought a steadily losing battle; in 1941, when he could no longer both lecture and write, he chose to resign his chair. But there was no recovery, and he died on January 9 at the comparatively early age of fifty-three, mourned by his friends as a lovable personality, by scholars in general as one whose contributions to learning have substance and permanent worth.

T. M. KNOX.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, C.B.E., consulting physician in psychological medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, formerly general secretary and later president of the Medico-Psychological Association, on January 30, aged eighty-five.

Prof. C. C. Farr, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physics in Canterbury College, Christchurch, New Zealand, aged seventy-six.

Dr. F. S. Sinnatt, C.B., M.B.E., F.R.S., director of fuel research, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, on January 27, aged sixty-two.

NEWS and VIEWS

Geological Society Awards

THE Council of the Geological Society has made the following awards: Wollaston Medal to Prof. A. E. Fersman in recognition of his fundamental contributions in the field of geochemistry and his researches on the economic mineralogy of Russia; Murchison Medal to Prof. A. Brammall for his notable contributions to geochemistry and petrogenesis, especially of the rocks of Dartmoor and Malvern; Lyell Medal to Mr. D. N. Wadia, lately of the Geological Survey of India, for his work on the syntaxis of the Himalaya and his contributions to the geology of India, especially Kashmir; Bigsby Medal to Dr. G. M. Lees, chief geologist of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, for his geological studies on Persia, Oman and his important share in the discovery of oil in England; Wollaston Fund to Miss Ethel D. Currie in recognition of her valuable researches in palæontology; Murchison Fund to Mr. A. G. Davis for his work on the Cretaceous and Tertiary fossils of south-eastern England; one moiety of the Lyell Fund to Mr. F. A. Bannister and another moiety to Dr. M. H. Hey, for their joint X-ray and chemical investigation of minerals.

Highway Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand

DR. BERNARD H. KNIGHT, research officer in highway engineering in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, has been appointed to the newly

created chair of highway engineering in that University, with effect from April 1 next. It is believed that this chair of highway engineering, which is tenable in the Department of Civil Engineering, is the first of its kind to be founded in the British Empire outside Great Britain. Its establishment has been made possible by the joint support of the South African Iron and Steel Corporation and the National Road Board. Dr. Knight, who was formerly lecturer in road engineering at the College of Estate Management, London, was appointed senior research assistant in highway engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand early in 1939. Since then, three post-graduate scholarships in highway engineering have been established in its Department of Civil Engineering. The marked development in highway engineering research which has taken place at this University has been made possible by the provision of the new Civil Engineering Laboratories situated in the Hillman Building, which was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, General Smuts, in June, 1941.

Science Students and Industrial Experience

THE War is undoubtedly speeding up many changes in our educational habits. Until quite recently, it was the custom for students of engineering only, either during vacation or otherwise, to spend some part of their time in the practice of engineering on the industrial side. The needs of total war have brought