in Germany. It was a period in which he not only extended his own knowledge far and deep, but also produced a series of vitalizing documents which gave confidence and purpose to the educational movement which began in 1902. In that year it can be safely asserted that no Englishman knew more about education at all its stages in all the countries that mattered than Sadler, and certainly there was no one more capable of expressing what he knew. It was natural that his knowledge and powers should be freely used. On one hand he became for a brief period professor of the history and administration of education at Manchester, and then vice-chancellor of Leeds; on the other, he found time to plan the secondary and higher education of Sheffield, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Huddersfield, Exeter, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Derbyshire and Hampshire. This series of signal public services culminated in his presidency of the Calcutta University Commission and his monumental report on Indian education. His long apprenticeship had borne abundant fruit, and all of it came to maturity. Later, he returned to his old University as master of University College, continuing to be until his retirement and after it a source of inspiration and life in the many causes to which he laid his hand: in the University and in the City, of which he became a freeman; in the Oxford Preservation Society; and in all movements for the encouragement and better understanding of modern art and promising artists.

He could deliver a formal oration of perfect classical form, and equally could speak with eloquence and fire on the spur of the moment in a company large or small. He had the gift of throwing his entire self into whatever engaged his interest, and partly because of this he won the devotion and admiration of many young people. He radiated friendliness, and it was not for nothing that Leeds during his vice-chancellorship was spoken of as "the friendliest in the country". He attracted youth also because he was little interested in what was already established and conventional, but was ever looking for promise and the movement of the future. It is significant of this quality in him that at Headington his fine Gainsboroughs were not given pride of place, but were kept in the shade by his remarkable collection of modern examples, which much resembled the wheat and the tares alike growing together for the harvest; and it must be confessed that he liked to shock convention to the extent of advancing paradoxes in which he did not entirely believe himself. It has been said that the Greeks were always children, and Sadler in the same way kept something of the eternal boy. He told a select gathering of heads of houses at Oxford that in a generation Oxford and Cambridge would be moss-grown relics of the past, and the intellectual life of the country would have passed to Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham. He blandly advocated a by-pass to bisect Christ Church meadows, partly because he liked by-passes as being strong, broad and direct, like himself, and partly he wanted to observe the shock with which Oxford would react to this assault on one of its most treasured beauties.

He had a happier life than is given to most: he has left us the record of a great and lovable man.

CYRIL NORWOOD.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Leon Asher, emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Berne, on August 8, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. H. L. Lebesque, For.Mem.R.S., professor of mathematics in the Collège de France, during 1941, aged sixty-eight.

Prof. Einar Lönnberg, the well-known Swedish zoologist, on October 21.

Mr. Cecil Rowntree, the distinguished surgeon and authority on cancer treatment, on October 14, aged sixty-three.

Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., F.B.A., the authority on Central Asian antiquities, on October 26, aged eighty.

Mr. W. P. Westell, formerly curator of the Letchworth Museum and well-known lecturer and writer on natural history, on November 1, aged sixty-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

Woodwardian Chair at Cambridge: Lieut.-Colonel W. B. R. King, O.B.E., M.C.

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. B. R. KING has been appointed Woodwardian professor of geology in the University of Cambridge. He has the unique distinction of having been the chief representative of British geology directly employed as a geologist in both world wars. He won two awards on the Western Front: an O.B.E. for geological services in the War of 1914–18, and an M.C. for non-geological actions connected with the evacuation of the British Army from France in 1940. In peace, Colonel King was a member of the Geological Survey of Great Britain from 1912 until his appointment as Prof. Marr's assistant at Cambridge in 1920. Eleven years later he was elected to the Yates-Goldsmid chair of geology at University College, London.

Colonel King's publications are an index to his wide interests. Among them we find contributions to Palæozoic palæontology and stratigraphy, largely drawn from the north of England and Wales, but including also descriptions of fossils from the Middle East and India; gleanings from his war experience of the Mesozoic and Tertiary formations of the Continent; interpretations of North of England scenery; and a co-operative excursion into the marches of geology and archæology, so well represented in the Pleistocene of the Thames Valley. Colonel King's past experience on the Geological Survey has given a special character to his open-air teaching of his subject. In another direction, he will be remembered as a popular secretary of the Geological Society.

New Master of Birkbeck College: Prof. H. Gordon Jackson

WITH the appointment to the mastership of Birkbeck College, London, of Prof. H. Gordon Jackson, who has been head of the Zoology Department there since 1921 and professor since 1928, the Governors seem to have followed a similar course as towards the end of the War of 1914–18, when the late Dr. Senter was appointed to that position. Thus during the important period of reconstruction which the College looks forward to after the War, there will

be in charge one who is familiar with the rather special conditions which obtain there. To zoologists Prof. Jackson is best known for his numerous papers on the systematics of the terrestrial Isopod Crustacea and on the comparative anatomy of the Isopod head; but his colleagues are familiar, too, with the imperturbable good humour, the careful planning and the absolute fairness with which he has presided over numerous bodies in his College and University, while large numbers of former students recall with great enjoyment the lucidity and wit of his lectures, and his uncanny knack of selecting precisely the most apt metaphor or simile for driving home a point of difficulty. In view of the damage sustained by the College during the raids of 1940–41 and the part which Birkbeck College is bound to play in University education after the War, the transfer of the College to the Bloomsbury site is one of its most urgent problems. Prof. Jackson's many high qualities will, we feel, ensure an early solution.

Tercentenary of John Bainbridge

WHEN Sir Henry Savile (1549–1622), while holding the post of warden of Merton College, Oxford, founded the Savilian professorships of geometry and astronomy at Oxford in 1619, the first of these was given to Henry Briggs (1561–1630), who had held the chair of geometry at Gresham College, London, while to the second was appointed John Bainbridge, a London physician who had just published a description of a comet observed in November 1618. Bainbridge on his appointment was thirty-seven, and he continued to hold his chair until his death on November 3, 1643. Born at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, he had studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and had qualified in medicine. While teaching and practising he devoted his leisure to mathematics and astronomy. Removing to Oxford in 1620, he continued his study of the writings of the Greeks and Arabs, and though he published but little, he left a considerable number of manuscripts. These he bequeathed to his friend, the learned but unfortunate Archbishop James Ussher (1581–1656), whose library, after various vicissitudes, passed to Trinity College, Dublin. Bainbridge died at his house opposite Merton College, and after an oration by William Strode, his body was laid beside that of Briggs in Merton College Chapel.

Aeronautical Medals

THE Royal Aeronautical Society has recently acquired, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a remarkable collection of more than three hundred aeronautical medals, dating from 1714 to 1941. The medals are a veritable history of aeronautics, struck on the occasion of some aeronautical event. Three of the early medals were struck in 1783 to commemorate the first ascent of the Montgolfier Brothers in a hot-air balloon; two others show the first ascent of Lunardi from London in 1784; another the first Dutch aeronaut to ascend, from Amsterdam, in 1806. James Sadler, the first Englishman to make an ascent, is commemorated in a medal dated 1811. A silver medal of 1851 shows the ascent of three balloonists each on a horse! There are many examples of the Siege of Paris medals of 1870, Giffard's ascents and others. A bronze medal of 1896 shows the Andrée polar balloon, and several silver ones of 1901 Santes Dumont's dirigible. Coming to later days, there is a medal of 1909 commemorating the award of the Congress Medal to the brothers Wright; medals of various Zeppelins, Parseval, the *R.*101 and other dirigibles; medals commemorating Bleriot's cross-Channel flights, 1909; the flights of Paulhan (London–Manchester, 1910); Chavez (crossing the Alps, 1910); Lindbergh (trans-Atlantic flight, 1927); Hinkler (London to Australia, 16 days, 1928); Kohl, Hunefeld and Fitzmaurice (Ireland to America, first east–west flight, 1928); and Prof. Picard and Dr. Kipfer (first stratosphere ascent, 1931).

Collaboration in Fuel Research

THE Standing Consultative Conference on Fuel Research, which has been constituted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to promote collaboration among the various research associations or equivalent organizations engaged on fuel research, and between them and the Department's Fuel Research Organisation, had a preliminary meeting on October 21 at which representatives of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the British Coal Utilisation Research Association, the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association, the British Refractories Research Association, the Gas Research Board, British Iron and Steel Federation (Industrial Research Council), and British Hard Coke Research Association were present. In his opening remarks Sir Edward Appleton, who presided, briefly described the objects which the Department had in view in setting up the Conference, and emphasized that membership is voluntary and at the invitation of the Department. The Conference is intended to provide a convenient means whereby the research organizations may keep in close touch with each other, and assist each other by interchange of information and by friendly discussion. Members of the Conference described briefly the aims and scope of their organizations and then discussed arrangements for the setting up of a central body to undertake the preparation and publication of abstracts of current literature relating to fuel and the maintenance of a register of translations. It was decided that the next meeting should be held early in January 1944, when the fuel research programmes of the member organizations would be considered by the Conference.

Application of Biology to Agriculture

DR. HUBERT MARTIN's presidential address to the Association of Applied Biologists, delivered on February 12, 1943, which has now appeared in the *Annals of Applied Biology*, pays tribute to the work of the Biology War Committee and expresses the view that the provincial advisers in the biological subjects may soon be expected to assert their proper and powerful influence on the activities of the War Agricultural Executive Committees. Discussing the official recognition of proprietary pest control products, which has been brought into fresh prominence through the participation of the advisory services in the "Grow-more" campaign, Dr. Martin outlined the negotiations between the Association and the British Mycological Society, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Association of British Insecticide Manufacturers which had led to the scheme announced in October for a joint panel to give the requisite guidance to the advisory committee. The further growth of the scheme, which will not admit products of wholly secret composition and which includes no testing