reports, Beadnell contributed to scientific publications, and especially to the *Geographical Journal*. He was awarded the Barlow-Jameson Fund of the Geological Society of London in 1904 and received the Cuthbert Peak Grant of the Royal Geographical Society in 1931.

K. S. SANDFORD.

Dr. Birkett Wylam

BIRKETT WYLAM, chief inspector for Scotland under the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Act and Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, died suddenly at his home in Edinburgh on January 15. While Dr. Wylam had not been in his usual vigorous health for some time, the news of his untimely death came as a shock to his many professional friends.

A native of County Durham, Dr. Wylam was a graduate of the University of Durham, where he took the degrees of B.Sc. in 1921, M.Sc. in 1922 and Ph.D. in 1925. He became an associate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1924 and was elected to the fellowship in 1935. He was an active member of the Council of the Institute during 1938-40, and was a prominent figure in the Edinburgh Section, of which he was chairman. He also took an active interest in the Society of Chemical Industry. In 1936 he became a member of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Dr. Wylam began his professional career as research chemist to Morton Sundour Fabrics, Ltd., and later was research chemist and process manager at Scottish Dyes, Ltd. (I.C.I.), Grangemouth. He left this post to take up his official duties with the Department of Health for Scotland in 1931. During the War of 1914-18 he served with the Royal Garrison Artillery in France.

I have been privileged to know Dr. Wylam for some eight years, during the last five of which I have been his colleague. He was a delightful person to work with, always thorough, sympathetic and helpful. He was a fair man, his standards were high, and he was incapable of being mean. His chief interest was in doing things, and an idea had no sooner crystallized in his mind than the machinery was set in motion to effect its realization. He never sought praise; it was sufficient for him to experience the pleasure of a job well done.

In his dealings with the chemical industry in the execution of his official duties he earned the respect of all as a competent chemical engineer, and he carried into this sphere his personal characteristics of fairness, high standards, and ever-readiness to help. For reasons of national security I cannot give details of his war-time activities; it is sufficient to say that his whole energy was directed into channels calculated to shorten the duration of the present conflict.

Dr. Wylam truly lived and enjoyed every moment of his life, at work, at home and at play. His hobbies were all constructive as well as artistic. He had a wide range of engineering and woodworking tools, which he put to no mean use. He was a keen photographer, a collector of commemorative medals, and a very wide reader. Science in Scotland has lost a man who, by virtue of his wide practical experience and acute mental alertness, was at his prime. To Mrs. Wylam and her children we offer our most sincere sympathy.

JOHN HAMILTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. L. H. Baekeland, the distinguished plastics chemist and inventor of 'Bakelite', on February 23, aged eighty.

Mr. H. H. Brindley, fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and during 1926-34 University demonstrator in zoology, on February 19, aged seventy-eight.

Prof. J. W. H. Eyre, emeritus professor of bacteriology in the University of London, on February 17, aged seventy-four.

Prof. Yandell Henderson, professor of applied physiology at Yale University, on February 18, aged seventy.

Mr. J. Reid Moir, F.R.S., president of the Ipswich Museum, on February 24, aged sixty-four.

Prof. H. F. Newall, F.R.S., emeritus professor of astrophysics in the University of Cambridge, on February 21, aged eighty-six.

Dr. E. O. Ulrich, formerly geologist in the U.S. Geological Survey, known for his work in invertebrate palaeontology, aged eighty-seven.

Mr. S. E. Winbolt, formerly of Christ's Hospital, Horsham, who was an authority on Roman antiquities in Great Britain, on February 16, aged seventy-six.

NEWS and VIEWS

Edinburgh Medical Men and the Great Adventure

THE spirit of adventure as it has been exemplified by graduates of the University of Edinburgh was the theme selected by Prof. James Ritchie for his 'Promotor's' address at the Medical Graduation at the University of Edinburgh last July. It was, Prof. Ritchie pointed out, the Edinburgh medical graduate Mungo Park who discovered and traced the greater part of the course of the River Niger. Another medical student, Laing, discovered its source. Yet other Edinburgh medical men completed the Niger adventure, for Oudney discovered Lake Chad and Baikie led the last Niger expeditions sent out by the British Government. All these pioneers died in Africa. But, even before Park's day, men from the University of Edinburgh had been active in Africa. James Bruce re-discovered the sources of the Blue Nile, while Joseph Thomson, a pupil of T. H. Huxley, has been described as the last, and one of the most

successful, of the great geographical pioneers in Africa. Other Edinburgh medical men have carried the spirit of adventure to geographical discoveries in India, Australia and America, and these men studied at the same time the natural history of the lands wherein they pioneered. On the seas the spirit of adventure is exemplified by Scoresby, the Whitby lad who became a world authority on the life of whales. To the Edinburgh naturalists Sir John Richardson, Harry Goodsir and John Macgillivray, the Franklin Arctic expedition owed much.

No doubt the graduates of Edinburgh or of other universities will be interested to learn that Edward Forbes, who founded the science of oceanography, left that University in his ninth year as a medical student without a degree, to return fourteen years later to do brilliant work as its professor of natural history. Wyville Thomson, another medical, also left without a degree, but because his health was not