In addition, Prof. Buisson made regular daily measurements of the amount of ozone in the atmosphere at Marseilles and also showed that the amount of ozone in surface air was relatively very small.

The importance of ozone in the upper atmosphere lies in the fact that, together with carbon dioxide and water vapour, it probably governs the radiative equilibrium temperature at great heights, and is largely responsible for the existence of the upper warm region at a height of 50–70 km., where the temperature is probably above that at ground-level. For these reasons the names of Fabry and Buisson are familiar to meteorologists the world over.

G. M. B. DOBSON.

Dr. E. Granichstadten

DR. E. GRANICHSTADTEN died at Edinburgh on January 5, 1944. He was one of Austria's most successful industrial chemists, possessing the rare ability both to make discoveries and to apply them; he was also a great benefactor to science. His most outstanding contribution to chemistry was the development of the catalytic hydrogenation of oils and fats which made margarine manufacture possible. Shortly after Sabatier and Senderens had demonstrated that unsaturated hydrocarbons in the gaseous phase could be hydrogenated in the presence of a nickel catalyst, Dr. Granichstadten began his experiments on the transformation of vegetable oils into edible fats. After many difficulties he finally succeeded by passing electrolytic hydrogen through the highly purified oils into which the catalyst had been introduced as a readily reducible nickel salt, a process which found wide industrial application in most European countries.

In later years Dr. Granichstadten founded and endowed a research institute at the Alpine spa Gastein with the view of putting the renowned effects of its radioactive springs on a scientific basis. Spectacular progress had been made by the time Austria was invaded. Within three days of the invasion, Dr. Granichstadten was forbidden to enter his own institute, and shortly afterwards he was driven from his native country. He found refuge at Edinburgh, where he was engaged in experiments on nutrition until his premature death. M. F. PERUTZ.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Charles Boys, F.R.S., on March 30, aged eighty-nine.

Sir Cecil Harcourt-Smith, K.C.V.O., formerly keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum, director of the British School at Athens during 1895–97, and director of the Victoria and Albert Museum during 1909–24, on March 27, aged eighty-four.

Sir Thomas Lyle, F.R.S., formerly professor of natural philosophy in the University of Melbourne, aged eighty-three.

Prof. L. R. Wilberforce, professor of physics in the University of Liverpool during 1900–35, on April 1, aged eighty-two.

NEWS and VIEWS

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

THE annual report for 1943 of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee refers to a substantial increase in membership. Subjects with which the Committee was concerned during the year included income tax and subscriptions to learned societies, coal utilization research, the training of Civil servants, scientific research and the universities in post-war Britain, on the last three of which reports have been issued, research and Colonial development and income tax and research expenditure, on which a memorandum has since been issued. Further action is projected in regard to the universities and research. A motion has been tabled by members of the Committee in the House of Commons which, it is hoped, may provide the opportunity for a debate during the current session, while a sub-committee has been set up to report on the general question of how research in Great Britain might be developed and organized in the most efficient manner. At the annual general meeting held on February 3, 1944, the chairman reported that it was hoped that the first report would cover a general introduction as to the principles which should be applied to the organization and development of all fields of research work and the development of industrial research. Further reports might concentrate on research and agriculture, research and housing, etc.

At the annual luncheon on the same day, Lord Samuel, after referring to the presence in the Government of four men who had undergone scientific training at the universities, suggested that the Lord President of the Privy Council should have his functions enlarged so that he might become the representative of science as such in the Cabinet and among the other Departments. Lord Woolton paid a warm tribute to the work of the Committee, emphasizing that it is by the application of scientific discovery to the ordinary everyday life of the people that we raise the standard of life of the whole community, and referring particularly to what had been done in recent years with regard to food. Sir Raymond Streat suggested that the immense enlargement of the areas of fundamental knowledge and the increasing tendency for society to demand from science the attainment of specific objectives are leading us into an age of applied research. To meet that challenge, we have not so much to extend the quality and volume of our scientific work as our organization to develop and apply it, and to evolve modifications of our social, political, economic and legislative framework so that we may absorb the impact of an era of research and increase the health and vigour of our society. In connexion with the last, British natural conservatism is our danger. To what extent are our ideas of social security, our instinctive reluctance to acknowledge obsolescence, our regard for property, our trade union practices, inimical to rapid absorption of the consequences of scientific progress? Every effort should be made to prepare the public for the pace at which society must absorb the fruits of scientific work.