

the annals of bryology. He served on the Council of the Linnean Society during 1925-29, and was vice-president in 1928. He was honorary member of several natural history societies, but none of the recognized honours came his way. Perhaps it was because taxonomy, not being in the fashion, is not 'original research'—perhaps it was because he was over-modest. He has bequeathed his British collection to the Kew Herbarium and his foreign collection to the British Museum (Natural History). J. RAMSBOTTOM.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :
Prof. J. G. Duncan, lecturer in chemistry in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and professor of chemistry at the Veterinary College, Glasgow, on May 1.

Prof. Chancey Juday, emeritus professor of limnology and director of the Limnological Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, president in 1927 of the Ecological Society of America, on March 29, aged seventy-two.

NEWS and VIEWS

University Chair of Geography: Birkbeck College

Prof. E. G. R. Taylor

THE retirement of Prof. Eva G. R. Taylor from the University chair of geography at Birkbeck College, London, marks the departure from active academic life of one of the most vigorous personalities in geography. After graduating in natural sciences in London, she became personal assistant to Prof. A. J. Herbertson at Oxford at a time when he and his contemporaries—including Halford Mackinder and H. R. Mill—were laying the firm foundations of the modern concept of geography. A period of lecturing in London teachers' training colleges followed by ten years association (1921-31) with Prof. J. F. Unstead at Birkbeck College gave opportunities, both through lively teaching and lecturing and the well-known series of Unstead and Taylor text-books, for disseminating the new ideas in the minds of successive generations of prospective teachers. Prof. Taylor preferred always to work under her maiden name, but geographical work had to be combined in these years with the urgent needs of a young family; nevertheless she found time for a thoughtful little book on "Oceans and Rivers", and in her own text-books developed the now universally familiar idea of the 'sketch-map'—more adequately described as a cartogram in which certain salient or related features are selected for diagrammatic representation on an outline map.

Prof. Taylor's appointment in 1931 to succeed Prof. Unstead gave opportunities for a wider sphere of work. Earlier years of patient research in historical geography led to the successive publication of a study of Barlow's "Brief Summe of Geographie", comprehensive works on Tudor geography and on Late Tudor and Early Stuart geography and on the writings of the Hakluyts. Papers on old maps and instruments appeared in the *Mariners Mirror* and many other journals. In 1937 came the great opportunity to bring before a wider public the geographical concept of the influence of environmental factors in the life of man. The Royal Geographical Society was asked to prepare evidence for the Royal Commission on the Geographical Location of the Industrial Population (the Barlow Commission) and Prof. Taylor acted as chairman of the committee which, by a large series of maps and diagrams yet to be incorporated in the proposed National Atlas, succeeded in demonstrating both the strength and permanence of such localizing factors as accessibility, relief of the land, distribution of minerals, soil, rainfall, temperature, fog and a host of others on the distribution of industry and the movement of the population. She showed the dangers of the growing concentration of industry and population in a central

coffin-shaped area stretching from Lancashire to Greater London—with the consequent creation of peripheral depressed areas. With Dr. Dudley Stamp she represented the Society and gave verbal evidence to the Commission the influence of which is apparent in both the Barlow Report and the subsequent Scott Report, as well as in what is now current day-to-day practice in town and country planning. It is greatly to be hoped that Prof. Taylor's retirement will in reality mean greater leisure for continuance of constructive work.

Prof. S. W. Wooldridge

DR. S. W. WOOLDRIDGE, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Taylor, was trained as a geologist. He took as his special field the minor structures and glacial history of the London Basin, to which much of his published work relates. The climatic implications of glaciation drew him to a study of meteorology under the stimulating guidance of Sir Napier Shaw, and, thus equipped, it was natural that he should be invited to lecture on the physical basis of geography to the newly formed Honours School of Geography at King's College and the London School of Economics. Dr. Wooldridge's attention was thus turned to human geography, concerning which its critics said that its conclusions were either trivial or fallacious. To test this view, he examined the archaeological and historical material relating to the early phase of the Anglo-Saxon settlement in the light of his geomorphological researches, and was able to demonstrate, *inter alia*, the important influence of the loam terrains. His published papers on this theme strengthen the view that the weakness of human geography has arisen rather from the insufficient refinement of the analysis of physical conditions than from the unimportance of the geographical factor. At Birkbeck College Dr. Wooldridge will find a considerable body of postgraduate students, many of whom are at work on geographical aspects of regional and national planning. The importance of a close scrutiny of the terrain in this connexion needs no emphasis.

Ardaseer Cursetjee (Wadia), F.R.S.

Few men of science in Great Britain know that an Indian, Ardaseer Cursetjee (Wadia), was admitted into the fellowship of the Royal Society so early as 1841. The following information was given to Prof. A. V. Hill, biological secretary of the Royal Society, by Colonel S. L. Bhatia, of the Indian Medical Service, who obtained details from Sir R. P. Masani of Bombay. In the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* of 1865 he appears as "Ardaseer Cursetjee, Esquire, of Bombay" and as the first Indian elected a fellow of