

Those of us who knew Mrs. Hatfield as a friend learned to value her pleasant personality and ready smile. One could not be in her company for long without realizing her capabilities and wide cultural interests. Her outstanding characteristic was courage—the keynote of her life. Her friends and colleagues will miss very much one who possessed a fund of knowledge and a balanced outlook on life.

P. M. TAYLOR.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Arthur Hurst, president during 1927–29 of the Section of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, on August 17, aged sixty-five.

Prof. S. P. Mercer, professor of agricultural botany in the Queen's University, Belfast, and senior technical research officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, aged fifty-three.

NEWS and VIEWS

Agriculture at Edinburgh

THE endowment of the chair of agriculture in the University of Edinburgh was presented in 1790 by Sir William Pulteney, Bt., M.P., as a mark of his appreciation of his old University. Agriculture thus became the first chair in Edinburgh to be founded by a private benefactor, for its twenty-three predecessors had all been instituted either by the Crown or by the Town Council of Edinburgh, and it is probably the earliest foundation of its kind in any university in Britain. The present occupant of the chair, Prof. Ernest Shearer, who is also principal of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, retires after eighteen years of service at the end of this session, and the electors have selected as his successor in both posts Dr. S. J. Watson, director-in-charge of the Jealott's Hill Agricultural Research Station of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Dr. Watson was educated at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and his agricultural interests have covered a wide field. He has been associated with Imperial Chemical Industries at first as officer-in-charge of the Animal Nutrition and Biochemistry Section, and latterly as director of the Agricultural Research Station. At Jealott's Hill his experimental work is well known to agriculturists and to scientific workers, and he has made a recognized contribution to the knowledge and practice of farm methods. His books include "The Feeding of Cattle", "The Science and Practice of Conservation of Crops" and "Silage and Crop Preservation", and his published papers cover many subjects associated with the feeding values of different kinds of crops, processes of preserving crops by drying and silage methods, and the planning of cropping.

Geophysics at Columbia University:

Appointment of Prof. Maurice Ewing

PROF. MAURICE EWING, associate professor of physics at Lehigh University, has been appointed associate professor of geophysics in the Department of Geology of Columbia University. Prof. Ewing is at present engaged in research for the U.S. Navy with the civilian rank of chief scientist, and will take up his new post at the end of the War. At Columbia, Prof. Ewing will direct graduate instruction in geophysics as part of a post-war programme of geological training and research, and will continue his investigations of the continental shelf and the ocean basins. In recent years, through the development of special equipment of his own invention, Prof. Ewing has made geophysical measurements, both from ships on the surface and from submarines, of the continental margin beneath the ocean along the

Atlantic coast of North America. Through these studies it was found in 1935–38 that the slope of the outwashed sediments off the Atlantic Coast did not conform to the slope of the underlying rock floor. In war-time the experience gained from these studies has been of special value to the U.S. Navy Department, and through the co-operation of the Government Prof. Ewing has been enabled to devote all his time to geophysical research, working from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, at Woods Hole, Mass.

Employment Policy and Technical Efficiency

SOME further points in regard to the White Paper on Employment Policy were elucidated in the debate in the House of Lords on July 5 and 6. Welcoming an inquiry from Lord Barnby, Lord Woolton stated that the Government proposed to take statutory powers in order to get the statistics required. On the question of cartels and international agreements raised both by Lord Trent and Lord McGowan, Lord Woolton indicated Government concurrence in the proposal that there should be a Government inquiry on restrictive practices, and urged that the question should be considered on a factual and not an emotional basis, and from the point of view of the public interest. As was independently pointed out by Lord Wardington, such agreements embody principles identical with those enunciated in the Atlantic Charter, which advocates international agreements and co-operation and the creation of spheres of interest. On the point of technical efficiency stressed by Viscount Samuel as the most important point in the White Paper, Lord Barnby, who also raised the question of the Government's views with regard to trade associations, urged that if industry is to have efficient equipment, it requires a revision of the Factory Acts to permit the two-day shift operation of female labour. Expensive new equipment must, to carry overheads, run more than eight hours in the twenty-four. Lord McGowan referred to the growing emergence in British industry of a new social outlook, and also asked for more guidance as to the basis on which future international commercial relations are to be built. The question of controls was repeatedly mentioned, and Lord Woolton's statement that the Government is already considering the steps by which we could have an orderly unwinding of the controls reflected the practical temper of this debate, which showed a deep sense of the fundamental importance of a high standard of efficiency in British industry and that the realization of the White Paper proposals would come, as Lord Woolton said, by steady evolution and the application of modern scientific methods.