

NEWS and VIEWS

New Year Honours List

THE following names of scientific workers and others associated with scientific activities appear in the New Year Honours list:

Order of Merit: Prof. A. N. Whitehead, professor of philosophy in Harvard University.

Baronet: Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

K.B.E.: Sir Stanley Angwin, engineer-in-chief, General Post Office.

Knights: Prof. L. P. Abercrombie, professor of town planning, University of London; Dr. E. B. Bailey, director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain; Mr. F. W. Bain, chairman of the Chemical Control Board, Ministry of Supply; Prof. J. Chadwick, professor of physics, University of Liverpool, for services to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. A. P. M. Fleming, a director of Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., for services to education; Mr. R. G. Hetherington, adviser on water and director of water surveys, Ministry of Health; Mr. W. P. Hildred, director-general of civil aviation, Air Ministry; Mr. C. C. Inglis, director of the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona; Prof. E. H. Minns, emeritus professor of archaeology and president of Pembroke College, Cambridge; Diwan Bahadur Arcot Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, vice-chancellor of the University of Madras; Dr. C. W. B. Normand, lately director-general of observatories, India; Mr. J. F. Rees, principal of the University College of South Wales and Monmouth, Cardiff, vice-chancellor of the University of Wales; Dr. R. E. Stradling, chief adviser, Research and Experiments Department, Ministry of Home Security; Bomanji Jamshedji Wadia, vice-chancellor of the University of Bombay; Brig. L. E. H. Whitby, lately bacteriologist at the Middlesex Hospital, for services in the development of the sulphonamide group of drugs; Prof. E. T. Whittaker, professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh.

C.M.G.: Mr. D. L. Blunt, director of agriculture, Kenya; Mr. A. R. Callaghan, principal of the Roseworthy Agricultural College, South Australia, for public services; Mr. G. C. Turner, principal of the Makerere College, Uganda.

C.I.E.: Daulat Ram Sethi, agricultural production and marketing adviser, India; Mr. H. S. George, chief conservator of forests, Central Provinces and Berar; Mr. J. B. T. Brooks, chief conservator of forests, Bombay; Mr. F. C. Minett, director of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar-Mukteswar; Rai Bahadur Tridib Nath Banarji, principal of the Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna.

C.B.E.: Mrs. Mary G. Blacklock, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; Mr. J. P. Bowen, engineer-in-chief to Trinity House; Mr. H. Champion, director of the Central Statistical Office, Offices of the War Cabinet; Mr. H. J. E. Dumbrell, director of education, Bechuanaland Protectorate; Mr. R. E. W. Flower, lately senior deputy keeper of manuscripts, British Museum; Mr. J. P. Bushe-Fox, chief inspector of ancient monuments, Ministry of Works; Major J. Keith, chairman of the Board of Governors, North of Scotland College of Agriculture; Mr. J. R. Learmonth, surgical director, Emergency Medical Services, S.E. Area of Scotland, and professor of surgery, University of Edinburgh; Mr. R. C. Mar-

shall, chief conservator of forests, Gold Coast; Mr. W. L. Taylor, forestry commissioner; Mr. R. R. Waterer, conservator of forests, Cyprus.

The Next 11-Year Solar Cycle Begins

THE recent appearance of a big sunspot (visible at times to the unaided eye), together with four or five smaller groups overlapping in time, probably signifies that the rise in solar activity towards its next maximum has now definitely begun. This major group of spots in south latitude 22° crossed the sun's disk between December 8 and 20 last, the time of central meridian passage being December 14.3. A considerable disturbance in the earth's magnetic field occurred on December 16-17, with associated disturbed conditions for long-distance radio communication. For the past eighteen months, high latitude (20° - 40°) sunspots have begun to appear in increasing numbers, giving the characteristic overlap seen at this epoch of the 11-year cycle with the decreasing old-cycle spots in equatorial latitudes (0° - 10°). The routine observations of the magnetic fields of sunspots, carried out at the Mount Wilson Observatory (*Proc. Ast. Soc. Pacific*, Oct. 1944) show that the anticipated reversal of the magnetic polarity of comparable sunspots has taken place with the appearance of the new cycle spots, as first observed by Hale at the sunspot minimum of 1913. Sunspot frequency during 1943-44 gives a minimum at about 1944.5. The rise from minimum to the following peak of the cycle takes on the average $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 years; but individual cycles vary in amplitude and time of phase, not subject to prediction.

Earthquake in Britain

AN earth tremor approximately of scale $4\frac{1}{2}$ on the modified Mercalli scale (scale 5—felt by nearly everyone, many awakened, some dishes, windows, etc., broken, a few instances of cracked plaster, unstable objects overturned; disturbance of trees, poles and other tall objects sometimes noticed; pendulum clocks may stop) in the epicentral region occurred on December 30, 1944, about 12.35 a.m. G.M.T. It was recorded on Mr. J. J. Shaw's seismograms at West Bromwich, and here the record lasted about two minutes. The seismograph at Stonyhurst College Observatory was unhinged by the shock so that the full record was not obtained. Reports are not yet to hand from other observatories. The tremor was felt by people over a radius of approximately a hundred miles, and was reported from Carlisle, Newcastle, Norfolk, Derby and intermediate places. No damage or casualties have been reported. So far as can be ascertained there was no noise associated with the tremor. In the north of England this was the greatest tremor since the North Sea earthquake (epicentre latitude 53.7° N., longitude 1.3° E.) of June 7, 1931. A somewhat greater tremor shook Scotland and England on October 23, 1839, when the epicentre was near Comrie.

Mepacrine

AN important statement on the anti-malarial drug mepacrine B.P. (quinacrine hydrochloride of the United States Pharmacopoeia, also called 'atebrin' or 'atabrin') has been issued by the Medical Research Council's Committee on Malaria (*Brit. Med. J.*, 664, Nov. 18, 1944, and the *Lancet*, 667, Nov. 18, 1944). In view of the great importance of malaria in warfare in the Far East and the Mediterranean area, a