

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh :

Mr. Thomas Rowatt. O.B.E.

ON reaching the age limit, Mr. Thomas Rowatt has recently retired from the directorship of the Royal Scottish Museum, which he has held since 1934. He entered the Civil Service as assistant in the Technological Department of the Royal Scottish Museum in 1902, became assistant-keeper in 1909 and keeper of the Department in 1921. The period of his directorship marked steady progress in the development of the activities of the Museum, and although the building was closed to the public on the outbreak of the War, and its valuable collections were dispersed to places of safety, Mr. Rowatt has in recent years arranged for special exhibits which have proved attractive to the people of Edinburgh and to the city's many visitors from overseas. Perhaps the most popular of these has been the present Fisheries Exhibition, arranged in co-operation with the Fisheries Department of the Scottish Home Office, at which the comprehensive collection of exhibits illustrating many aspects of Scottish fisheries has been supplemented by weekly lectures on a wide variety of fishery topics by recognized experts.

Dr. Douglas A. Allan

MR. ROWATT has been succeeded in the directorship by Dr. Douglas A. Allan, formerly director of the Liverpool Public Museums. Dr. Allan is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, where he specialized in geology, taking part in the late Dr. W. S. Bruce's expeditions to Spitsbergen, and acting as assistant in the University Department of Geology under the late Prof. T. J. Jehu. During 1925-29 he was lecturer in geology in Armstrong College, University of Durham, and in the latter year was appointed director of the Liverpool Museums. Dr. Allan has taken an active part in the promotion of museum interests as chairman of the Museums Association and as a member of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee on Museums and Art Galleries. Last year he was awarded the Neill Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for his researches on the geology of the Highland border in Angus and Perthshire.

Biologist to North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board

AN appointment of more than usual interest to naturalists has been announced by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, the authority for the development of water-power schemes over a considerable area of the most attractive scenery in Scotland. In 1943 the Board appointed Mr. W. L. Calderwood, formerly inspector of Scottish salmon fisheries, as its principal consulting adviser on fishery matters, and he will continue in that capacity; but a full-time fishery adviser and biologist, Dr. John Berry, has now been appointed to ensure that in the planning of new schemes due attention will be given to all aspects which affect wild life. Dr. Berry's wide interests in natural history fit him well for such a post. For some time he was director of the Freshwater Fisheries Research Station at University College, Southampton, and before the War he carried out salmon research for the Fishery Board for Scotland and the Moray Firth Salmon Fishery Company. In 1939 he published for the International Wildfowl

Inquiry an exhaustive volume on "The Status and Distribution of Wild Geese and Wild Duck in Scotland". During the War he has been officer-in-charge of Press censorship in Scotland, but naturalists will welcome his return to his proper vocation.

Royal Society of Edinburgh

Awards

THE Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize, for the period 1940-44, to Prof. H. W. Turnbull, University of St. Andrews, for his distinguished contributions to mathematical science and the history of mathematics; and the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize, for the period 1942-44, jointly to Prof. Max Born and Dr. H. W. Peng, University of Edinburgh, for their papers on "Quantum Mechanics of Fields" published in the *Proceedings* of the Society within the period of the award.

New Fellows

THE following have been elected ordinary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Dr. Robert Aitken, lecturer in dermatology, University of Edinburgh; Prof. C. H. Browning, professor of bacteriology, University of Glasgow; Mr. A. M. Bryan, mining engineer; Dr. William Burns, agricultural commissioner with the Government of India (retired); Dr. L. B. C. Cunningham, superintendent of the Air Warfare Analysis Section, Ministry of Aircraft Production; Prof. A. Durward, professor of anatomy, University of Leeds; Dr. A. Erdélyi, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, University of Edinburgh; Dr. A. Ghaffar, lecturer in physiology, Robertson Medical School, Nagpur; Dr. W. Spence Haldane, teacher of chemistry, Dunfermline High School; Mr. E. H. E. Havelock, secretary of the Development Commission; Dr. R. E. Illingworth, lecturer on chemistry, School of Medicine, Royal Colleges; Dr. John Jardine, principal assistant secretary, Scottish Education Department; Dr. D. D. Logan, medical practitioner, Woodside, Lanarkshire; Mr. I. S. Macadam, secretary of the Royal Institute of International Affairs; Dr. D. M. McIntosh, director of education for the County of Fife; Mr. H. P. Morrison, publisher; Prof. J. T. Randall, professor of natural philosophy, University of St. Andrews; Dr. James Stirling, lecturer in plant physiology, University of Liverpool; Mr. Meirion Thomas, reader in plant physiology, King's College, University of Durham; Dr. Robert Walmsley, senior lecturer in anatomy, University of Edinburgh; Prof. S. J. Watson, Department of Agriculture, University of Edinburgh, and principal, Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture; Mr. James Wilkie, secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust; Mr. D. C. Wilson, director of T. and H. Smith, Ltd., Corstorphine; Dr. N. C. Wright, director of the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, Ayr; Prof. C. M. Yonge, regius professor of zoology, University of Glasgow.

New Aeronautical Research Establishment

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, Minister of Aircraft Production, in reply to a question in Parliament, has stated that it is proposed to build a new research and development centre for both civil and military aircraft construction at Bedford. Many new problems have now to be faced with the approach of supersonic speeds, which will need much special apparatus and