

mittee, Balfour was sent to France as liaison officer to the French Government during the War of 1914-18, with reference to the supplies of timber. He was one of the founders and remained a most active member of the Roads Beautifying Association, being at his death chairman of the technical sub-committee. His wide love of plants was shown by his zeal in supplying material for figuring in the *Botanical Magazine*.

Balfour had been a fellow of the Linnean Society for many years and had served on the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, the latter bestowing on him in 1927 its highest award. He had been a member of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland since 1900 and was made C.V.O. in 1944. His other interests included history, architecture and music, he himself possessing a fine baritone voice. But no notice of him would be complete without emphasis on his exceptional courtesy and charm, which were due largely to his understanding and sympathy and to

the genuine pleasure it gave him to do good to his fellow-man.  
A. D. COTTON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. F. Bligh Bond, formerly director of excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, on March 8, aged eighty.

Mr. G. V. Boys, secretary of the Institution of Naval Architects since 1935, on March 15, aged fifty-one.

Sir Thomas Lewis, C.B.E., F.R.S., physician-in-charge of the Department of Clinical Research at University College Hospital, London, on March 17, aged sixty-three.

Mr. P. W. Paget, a technical assistant of Marconi during his early work in England from 1896 onwards.

Prof. Stanislaw Zaremba, sometime professor of mathematics in the University of Cracow, and a member of the Polish Academy of Science, aged eighty-one.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Chair of Biochemistry at Sheffield:

Prof. H. A. Krebs

THE University of Sheffield has conferred on Dr. H. A. Krebs the title and status of professor of biochemistry in recognition of his eminence in the world of science. Dr. Krebs was awarded the degree of M.D. (Hamburg) in 1925 and that of M.A. (Cambridge) in 1935. He held the post of research assistant at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology, Berlin-Dahlem, during 1926-30 under Prof. Otto Warburg. After further experience in Germany he became a Rockefeller research student in the Biochemical Laboratory, Cambridge (1933-34), demonstrator in biochemistry at Cambridge (1934-35) and lecturer in pharmacology at Sheffield (1935-38). In 1938 he was appointed lecturer in charge of the newly created Department of Biochemistry in Sheffield, and attracted to his department research workers from both Europe and America. He is a naturalized British subject, and during the War he has given valuable service in connexion with diet and nutrition. His main contributions to biochemistry are in the field of intermediary metabolism. He showed that the synthesis of urea in the mammalian liver is catalysed by ornithine. This observation led to the formulation of the 'ornithine cycle', according to which ornithine, citrulline and arginine are intermediate stages in the synthesis of urea. His work on the oxidation of carbohydrate in muscle showed that this metabolic process, too, is a cyclic one (known as the 'Krebs cycle'), where a series of organic acids arises periodically.

### Prairie Regional Laboratory, Canada:

Prof. R. K. Larmour

PROF. R. K. LARMOUR, professor of chemistry in the University of Saskatchewan, has been appointed director of the Prairie Regional Laboratory which is to be built in Saskatoon by the Canadian National Research Council. Prof. Larmour served in the War of 1914-18, and following his return from overseas, he graduated from the University of Saskatchewan and carried out postgraduate work in the University of Minnesota, where he was Shevlin fellow. He joined the staff of the University of Saskatchewan in 1927

and has remained there ever since except for a short period when he occupied the chair of milling industry at a mid-western American university. Dr. Larmour has a high reputation in the field of grain research. The Prairie Regional Laboratory will be concerned primarily with investigations into the utilization of agricultural crops. It will be provided with facilities to undertake all phases of laboratory and pilot-plant investigations in this field.

### Colonial Development and Welfare Bill

THE essential feature of the new Bill dealing with Colonial development, which should be of interest to administrators, scientific men and technologists, and all who are concerned with the welfare and advancement of the British Colonial possessions, is that it represents a notable extension of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940. The extension concerns both the annual provision of funds and the period over which they will be available. Put briefly, whereas the Act of 1940 made available a sum of £5,000,000 per annum for development and £500,000 per annum for research, until 1951, the new Act makes available, unless "Parliament otherwise determines", a sum of £120,000,000 for all purposes during the period 1946-56. A commendable elasticity, which all who are responsible for new schemes whether of research or development will appreciate, is a feature of the new enactment. Thus it is explicitly stated that no time limit is imposed on schemes of research and investigation and up to £1,000,000 can be spent on such schemes in any one year. For all purposes, up to £17,500,000 may be expended in any one year.

Few will disagree with these measures. Substantial help for the Colonies has been long overdue. Now, it is reasonable to hope that definite schemes may not only be planned and set in motion but also actually carried through to fruition. Readers of *Nature* are already familiar with the very diverse developmental, constructional, sociological and research projects which require and are receiving attention under the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme. In particular, it may be pointed out that members of university staffs and of the teaching profession in Britain, as also in the Dominions and in the Colonies,