

great achievements have been widely known and acclaimed. If I have dwelt on the remote and less well-known period of his life in Northern Nigeria, it is because at that time the foundations of his future influence were laid—an influence which sprang from his passionate devotion to the people of Africa and the reciprocal devotion to him of the Africans whom he served so well. G. J. F. TOMLINSON.

### Mr. Thomas Sheppard

WITH the passing of Mr. Thomas Sheppard at his home in Hull on February 18; the city has lost a notable character. Though officially the director of the Hull Museums for forty years (until his retirement in 1941), his activities ranged over a wide field, from organizing exhibitions directing attention to Hull's trade and commerce, and lecturing up and down the country on a variety of subjects, to contributing numerous articles to the Press.

As showing his diversity of interests, Sheppard was a past president of the Museums Association; the Yorkshire Geological Society; Hull Scientific and Field Naturalists' Club; Hull Geological Society; Hull Literary Club; Yorkshire Numismatic Society; Hull Publicity Club; Hull Luncheon Club, and the Hull Playgoers' Society; and a past chairman of the Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies of the British Association. He was also a member of the Hull University College Historical Committee, Hull Development Committee, and the Yorkshire Roman Antiquities Committee, and was local secretary when the British Association visited Hull in 1922. He issued two hundred Publications of the Hull Museums, edited the *Naturalist* for thirty years and was also responsible for the bibliographies of Yorkshire geology, and Mortimer's "Forty Years Researches".

Perhaps Sheppard's most important work was in connexion with geology, and he received the Lyell Award of the Geological Society of London for his contributions to this subject. In recognition of his scientific work, he received the honorary degree of master of science from the University of Leeds and he was made an associate of the Linnean Society.

During his long service as director of the museums of Hull, the Albion Street Museum, Wilberforce

House, the Natural History Museum, Museum of Fisheries and Shipping, the Museum of Commerce and Transport, Mortimer Museum of Prehistoric Archaeology, and the Railway Museum at Paragon Station were opened. In fact, he gained a well-known reputation of having very few scruples when it came to obtaining exhibits for his beloved museums.

A man of genial personality and a great sense of humour, he had been in failing health for some years, and the fact that his work was done, and the results of so many years of interest destroyed during the air raids on the city of Hull, contributed greatly to his death at the age of sixty-eight. J. B. FAY.

### Dr. E. C. Wiersma

ACCORDING to a brief announcement in *Die Chemie* of October 28, 1944, Dr. E. C. Wiersma died at Delft at the age of forty-two. He was known for his work at the Kamerlingh Onnes Low Temperature Research Laboratories at Leyden. Both independently and in collaboration with Dr. W. J. de Haas, Wiersma had published a number of papers on the influence of low temperatures on the paramagnetism of certain metals and salts. He studied the adiabatic cooling of magnetic bodies and the production of low temperatures by adiabatic demagnetization. In 1931 he published a classification of para-magnetic atoms, molecules and ions based upon their fields at low temperatures. He also deduced a thermodynamic scale for temperatures below 1° Abs.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir James Barrett, K.B.E., C.M.G., sometime vice-chancellor and later chancellor of the University of Melbourne, and a founder and original fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, aged eighty-three.

Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Goodwin, K.C.B., formerly engineer-in-chief of the Fleet and a past-president of the Institute of Metals and of the Institute of Marine Engineers, on April 2, aged eighty-two.

Dr. G. L. Taylor, of the Galton Laboratory Serum Unit, recently seconded to the Medical Research Council, aged forty-seven.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Bessemer Gold Medal: Award to Mr. Harold Wright

MR. HAROLD WRIGHT, chief metallurgist to Dorman Long and Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough, has been awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal by the Iron and Steel Institute in recognition of his "valuable contributions made over many years to improve the technique of iron and steel manufacture". The Medal, which is the highest award conferred by the Institute, will be presented to Mr. Wright by the president, Mr. Arthur Dorman, at the annual meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute in London on May 9. Mr. Harold Wright has been a member of the Institute since 1902 and has served on its Council; he is a past president of the Cleveland Scientific and Technical Institution and of the Cleveland Institution of Engineers. He started work at the North Eastern Steel Works. While with Sir Bernard Samuelson, Mr. Wright took an

active part in the supply of molten basic iron to Dorman Long's Britannia Works when the latter firm introduced the hot metal process forty years ago. While in charge of the Newport coke ovens, Mr. Wright promoted the use of coke oven gas for town purposes. He first made the suggestion in 1902, but it was 1913 when the supply was first established. Mr. Harold Wright also possesses considerable geological knowledge, and has done a great deal of exploration work in connexion with the Cleveland ironstone deposits. He was also responsible for the introduction into local blast furnace practice of the use of rich foreign ores in the Cleveland burden. Mr. Harold Wright was appointed chief metallurgist to Dorman Long and Co., Ltd., in 1918. Last December the Company inaugurated a triennial Harold Wright Lecture to be given before the Cleveland Scientific and Technical Institution in recognition of his long and valuable service.