

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. G. H. Hardy, F.R.S.

THE appointment earlier this year of Prof. L. J. Mordell to the Sadleirian chair of pure mathematics in the University of Cambridge is a reminder that Prof. G. H. Hardy retired from the Sadleirian chair so long ago as 1942. Throughout his long career as lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge, during 1906-19, as Savilian professor of geometry at Oxford during 1919-31, and as Sadleirian professor of pure mathematics at Cambridge from 1931 until his retirement in 1942, Prof. Hardy has been a leader of mathematical thought. Forty years ago, mathematical analysis was neglected in England. To-day the English school of analysts commands respect and admiration throughout the world. This development is due almost entirely to Hardy, by the direct inspiration of his own teaching and personality, and through the medium of successive generations of his pupils. An important part was played, particularly in the early stages, by his stimulating book "A Course of Pure Mathematics", first published in 1908 and now in its ninth edition. But it is not possible in this short note to attempt any proper appreciation of the great volume of Hardy's original work, or to recount the imposing list of his collaborators. Chief among these is his former pupil, J. E. Littlewood, who has been a constant partner since about 1912.

The headings under which Hardy's work may be broadly classified (theory of series, theory of functions, Diophantine approximation, inequalities, analytical theory of numbers, Fourier analysis) are closely related, and many of the interrelations can be traced to Hardy's own influence. Thus the impressive body of "Tauberian" theory, with which Hardy and his followers have enriched the theory of series, finds some of its principal motives and applications in the theory of numbers. Again, the researches of Hardy and Littlewood on Diophantine approximation involved a profound study of certain power series near the circle of convergence, and this was no doubt the germ of the famous Hardy-Littlewood-Ramanujan analytical method in the additive theory of numbers, one of the greatest and most fruitful mathematical discoveries of this century. The name Ramanujan recalls what Hardy has described as the one romantic incident in his life—his association with the self-taught Indian mathematician who was to achieve world-wide fame under his guidance. This fascinating story has been told by Hardy himself. It is mentioned here as an example of what Hardy's pupils, one and all, owe to him, perhaps in more orthodox and more prosaic circumstances, in personal interest and sympathetic encouragement of their early efforts—a debt more fully appreciated in later life with the coming of mathematical independence and maturity.

Many honours have been conferred upon Hardy. He became a fellow of the Royal Society in 1910, and was awarded a Royal Medal in 1920 and the Sylvester Medal in 1940. In 1933 he received the Chauvenet Prize of the American Mathematical Association. For forty years he has been a tower of strength to the London Mathematical Society as member of its council, as secretary, and as president. He was awarded the de Morgan Medal of the Society in 1929. Hardy is the author or joint author of several books, all written in the vivid style familiar to readers of his original papers. "A Mathematician's Apology", pub-

lished in 1940, was received with enthusiasm by the wider public to which it was addressed. Hardy's technical writings, as well as his provocative pronouncements on philosophy and pedagogy, are often enlivened by apt illustrations from cricket or other games, sometimes to the bewilderment of foreign readers.

Anthropology in the University of London :

Prof. C. Daryll Forde

THE provision for the study and teaching of anthropology in London is being strengthened by the revival of the department in University College which has been partly suspended during the War. Prof. C. Daryll Forde has been appointed to the chair, and he will take up his duties at the opening of the new session. Prof. Forde first went to University College in 1919, and was there, as student and later as a junior member of staff, until 1928. He worked under Profs. Lyde and Elliot Smith in the period in which the latter gave so strong a stimulus to anthropological studies by the development of his theories on the diffusion of culture. From there he went, with a Commonwealth fellowship, to California, and spent two years on studies of the Pueblo Amerindians of the south-western United States and northern Mexico. In 1930 he was appointed Gregynog professor of geography and anthropology in the University of Wales, at University College, Aberystwyth.

After the publication of the results of his field-work in America, Prof. Forde became interested in Africa. He has carried out field work in West Africa, where he was caught by the outbreak of war in 1939. Since then he has served in the Foreign Office Research Department, as a member of the Nuffield colonial research team, and for the past year as director of the International African Institute. He has published many papers, and his book "Habitat, Economy and Society" is a well-known exposition of work done in the study of primitive societies. These, and a forthcoming book on native economies in Nigeria, indicate his range of work. He is essentially a field anthropologist, holding that such study of simpler societies can lead to a real understanding of the more primitive peoples, and contribute towards a better knowledge of more complex human societies, such as our own.

Marine Biological Association Laboratory, Plymouth :

Mr. F. S. Russell, D.S.C., D.F.C., F.R.S.

THE Council of the Marine Biological Association has appointed Mr. F. S. Russell to be director of the Association's Laboratory at Plymouth in succession to the late Dr. Stanley Kemp. Mr. Russell has been a member of the staff of the Association since 1921 and has played a very important part in the work of the Plymouth Laboratory. His work has thrown much light on the factors which control the distribution of planktonic organisms, and on the relationship of these organisms to more strictly fishery problems. Mr. Russell is at present serving in the Royal Air Force and holds the rank of wing commander.

Mrs. Seán T. O'Kelly

MRS. SEÁN T. O'KELLY, wife of the newly elected president of Ireland, is well known as Miss Phyllis Ryan, public analyst, in Dublin. She studied chemistry under the late Prof. Hugh Ryan at University College, Dublin, graduating in 1916, and obtaining