Sir William H. Ellis, G.B.E.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY ELLIS, who died at Sheffield on July 4 at the age of eighty-four, was the fourth son of John Devonshire Ellis, one of the original partners in John Brown and Company, armour plate and steel manufacturers of Atlas Works, Sheffield.

Sir William was born at Thurnscoe Hall in the county of York on August 20, 1860. He was educated at Uppingham School, and entered the works of Tannett Walker and Co., Ltd., of Leeds, in November 1878, passing through their various shops and drawing office. In 1882 he had charge, on their behalf, of the erection of a vertical blowing engine at some copper smelting works in Serbia, and afterwards was, for two years, a foreman in their erecting shop in Leeds. In October 1885 he went to Sheffield to take charge of the erection of a 4,000-ton hydraulic forging press, a pair of hydraulic pumping engines and two 150-ton overhead travelling cranes in connexion with the press. At the completion of this work in October 1887, he entered the employment of John Brown and Co., Ltd., Sheffield, as under-manager of their forge department. He was appointed a director of the Company in 1906 and became managing director in 1919.

Throughout his career Sir William displayed marked ability in technical, commercial and administrative work, and in addition, found time to render valuable public service. Among the many positions he has occupied, it is worth while putting on record here that he had been president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, of the Iron and Steel Institute, of the Sheffield Society of Engineers and Metallurgists, and of Section G (Engineering) of the British Association at the Glasgow meeting in 1928. He was Master Cutler in 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. He was a member of the Council of the University of Sheffield, of the Executive Board of the National Physical Laboratory, of the governing body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology and of the Cambridge University Appointments Board. He was also a member of the Committee of

Privy Council for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and of the Government committee on drainage in the Doncaster area.

Sir William was a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, a keen and intrepid mountaineer, and did much to assist Swiss guides in their retirement. He climbed the Matterhorn on his seventieth birthday. The Derbyshire moorlands were an open book to him. He looked forward to his week-ends, when walks of 16-20 miles over the wild heather-clad moors and fells of the Pennines were his delight and afforded him mental rest, in invigorating air, and equipped him for the work of the ensuing week.

On the artistic side Sir William was an accomplished organist, and loved to entertain friends in the evenings with selections from famous composers.

Sir William was a man of outstanding ability, tenacious in the pursuit of his object, and prior to his retirement from John Brown and Co., Ltd., was extremely active in the industrial life of Sheffield. He was a warm-hearted friend, and his passing leaves a gap in the ranks of Sheffield's old prominent citizens.

J. F. BRIDGE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. J. Davidson, head of the Department of Entomology, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and professor of entomology in the University of Adelaide, aged sixty.

Mr. J. S. Highfield, consulting engineer, a past-president and honorary member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, on August 15, aged seventy-three.

Prof. L. Wertenstein, formerly of the Miroslaw Kernbaum Radiological Laboratory of the Warsaw Society of Sciences, during a bombardment of Budapest in January 1945.

Prof. J. T. Wilson, F.R.S., emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of Cambridge, on September 2, aged eighty-four.

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. H. J. Gough, C.B., M.B.E., F.R.S.

THE announcement that Dr. H. J. Gough has relinquished the post of director-general of scientific research and development, Ministry of Supply, to become engineering chief of Messrs. Lever and Unilever Ltd., is of particular interest at the present time, since it means that British industry will have the full benefit of the accumulated experience of an engineer-scientist who has shown outstanding ability, first as an individual scientific investigator and then, during the war years, as one of the most responsible scientific administrators in the Government service. As a young man, Dr. Gough served with distinction in the Royal Engineers in the War of 1914-18 and then returned to the Engineering Department of the National Physical Laboratory to carry out the valuable researches on the causes of deformation and failure of engineering materials with which his name will always be associated. He rapidly became recognized as the leading authority in Great Britain on the important subject of the behaviour of metals under repeated or fatigue loading, and although always interested in the application of his researches to engineering practice, demonstrated very fully in his

own work how invaluable it is to utilize fundamental metallurgical and physical science in the solution of engineering problems. Dr. Gough succeeded the late Sir Thomas Stanton as superintendent of the Engineering Department of the National Physical Laboratory in 1930, and in this position not only continued his personal researches, but was also responsible for the initiation of many valuable researches in engineering materials and design, applied fluid mechanics, ballistics and lubrication. His researches and authoritative lectures did much to enhance the high reputation of the National Physical Laboratory in engineering research. In 1938 Dr. Gough was appointed the first director of scientific research at the War Office, and almost immediately had to face the tremendous task of organizing and directing the scientific activities of the newly created Ministry of Supply. This work called for all his abilities and almost inexhaustible energy, and can perhaps be summed up by saying that Dr. Gough, perhaps more than any other individual, was responsible for the many advantages which applied science has been able to give to the British Army in its successful fight.