

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Geological Survey (Scottish Office)

Dr. Murray Macgregor

THE retirement of Dr. Murray Macgregor during the past autumn brings to a close a long and eventful term of office in charge of the Geological Survey in Scotland and north-east England. On joining the staff in 1909, Dr. Macgregor was stationed at Edinburgh, and in 1921 succeeded the late Mr. L. W. Hinxman as district geologist for the Central Coalfield and Northern Highlands; and in 1925 he was appointed assistant director for Scotland. Dr. Macgregor has rendered signal service both in organizing and personally conducting geological investigations for industrial developments in Scotland. He will, however, be remembered especially for the close contact which he maintained with those engaged in the coal-mining industry. In addition to his many contributions to the economic geology of the coalfields in Survey memoirs he has written a comprehensive account of Scottish Carboniferous stratigraphy, which was published by the Geological Society of Glasgow in 1930. During the past twenty years a large programme of normal survey work was carried out under Dr. Macgregor's guidance. The first revision of the Scottish and Northumberland Coalfields was completed, as well as a second revision of a large part of the Central and Lothians Coalfields and the oil-shale field of the Lothians. Up to the outbreak of war in 1939, striking progress had also been made with the primary survey in several areas in the Highlands and Islands. During the war years the activities of Dr. Macgregor and his staff were concentrated upon economic aspects of geology, related to the War itself and to reconstruction. A number of special investigations were carried out at the request of several ministries and to meet various industrial needs. Among these may be mentioned a detailed examination of Scottish limestones, mainly for agricultural purposes, a search for feldspar, silica-rock, mica and iron ore, surveys of underground water resources and of areas for open-cast coal production, and an investigation of building materials, including slates, brick-clays and granite.

In addition to his Survey duties, Dr. Macgregor has contributed largely to scientific journals and to the work of scientific societies. He has served as president of the Edinburgh Geological Society and the Geological Society of Glasgow, as editor of the *Transactions* of the latter Society over a long period of years, and as member of council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is a vice-president of the Geological Society of London. In 1941 he was awarded the Murchison Medal by the Geological Society of London, and in 1944 the Clough Medal by the Edinburgh Geological Society.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead

DR. MURRAY MACGREGOR is succeeded at Edinburgh by Mr. T. H. Whitehead, who joined the Geological Survey in 1914. During the First World War he served in the Suffolk Regiment, reaching the rank of captain, was severely wounded and afterwards was appointed to the Intelligence Staff. Among his important published work is the Geological Survey memoir on the South Staffordshire Coalfield, in which he collaborated with T. Eastwood, now assistant director in England; other memoirs of which he is

a principal author are those on Coventry, Birmingham, Stafford, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury. In 1933 he was transferred to the Manchester branch office, and from 1935 until it was closed in 1938 he was in charge of that at York. During the War he has been the district geologist responsible for urgent revision work on the coal and other resources of the Midlands, and for the six-inch survey, now completed, of all the Jurassic and Cretaceous iron-ores south of the Humber. Whitehead's judicial mind and terse clarity in argument are acknowledged and admired by his colleagues of the Survey and Museum, whom he has served well both as counsellor and advocate, and by his fellow-members of the Council of the Geological Society. These qualities, coupled with his extensive and intimate knowledge of British geology and its economic applications, make him admirably suited for his new post.

## University of London, Institute of Education:

Prof. Karl Mannheim

DR. KARL MANNHEIM has been appointed to the chair of education in the University of London, in succession to Sir Fred Clarke, who retired at the end of the last academic year. The appointment dates from October 1, 1945, and is tenable at the University Institute of Education. Mannheim's appointment may be regarded as both daringly original and a sign of the times. A Hungarian by birth, he gained his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Budapest, and was becoming known as a sociologist of repute while teaching in Germany before 1933. The events of that year brought him to Britain, and to a lectureship in sociology in the London School of Economics. In 1940 his impressive study of "Man and Society in an Age of Reconstruction" established him in the front rank of sociologists, and the collection of essays he published in 1943 under the title of "Diagnosis of our Time" enhanced an already considerable reputation.

Mannheim has always shown himself peculiarly sensitive in his sociological studies to the importance of education, and since 1941 has been attached to the staff of the London University Institute of Education, but can scarcely be regarded as possessing the normal professional qualifications for a professorship in the subject. Paradoxical as it may seem, this is probably why he has been appointed. The Institute, under the leadership of Sir Fred Clarke, has in recent years been laying increasing emphasis on the social aspect of public education, and insisting that the philosophy of education must be worked out on a sociological basis. No one is better fitted to undertake this task than Mannheim.

## Benjamin Rush (1745-1813)

BORN on Christmas Eve two hundred years ago, Benjamin Rush remains one of the most versatile and colourful personalities in American history, and the greatest physician America has produced. One of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, treasurer of the U.S. Mint, founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, advocate of prison reforms, it is upon his reputation as a physician that his immortality rests. His account of the yellow fever epidemic which swept Philadelphia in 1793 won him international fame, while the singular courage and the untiring devotion to duty which he displayed in attending to its victims raised him in popular imagination to the stature of a hero. His descriptions