

now being appreciated in connexion with the development of world airways; his concept of regional contrasts, especially between Highland Britain and Lowland Britain, or between Metropolitan England and rural areas, is only now being recognized by the development of physical planning on a regional basis so that contrasts in needs and aims can receive adequate consideration in practice. The problems of Highland Scotland, to take an extreme example, are difficult of comprehension in Metropolitan England. Mackinder made free use of diagrammatic maps or cartograms, on which selected facts only are represented, to drive home his points—this is an art well known to geographers but still relatively unfamiliar to the public.

His deservedly popular lectures exercised a great influence on the many thousands of students who crowded to hear him. Though delivered without notes, they showed his dislike of slipshod work: they were balanced, closely reasoned and inevitably closely allied to the series of sketch maps which always adorned the walls when he was lecturing.

Although he worked steadily among his parliamentary colleagues to secure an appreciation of geographical analysis, he was still in advance of his time when he published "Democratic Ideals and Reality" in 1919. It aroused interest, but not enough; and it was left to the Nazis to prostitute geography to their ideology in the school of Geopolitik. It was only during the Second World War that this remarkable work of Mackinder's began to be appreciated. The original edition was still in print when the book was re-issued in a popular form. Most great problems of the day need analysis from economic, political, sociological, historical and geographical points of view: too often wrong conclusions are reached through the neglect of one of these points of view, and the most neglected approach is still that of the geographical. In this sense Mackinder's work has still to bear its full fruit. His outstanding contributions to geographical thought were recognized towards the close of his long life by the highest award the Royal Geographical Society has power to bestow—the Patron's Medal; and the highest award of the American Geographical Society, the Charles P. Daly Medal, was presented to him in 1944.

It is not widely known that Sir Halford was a mountaineer of the first calibre. In 1899, with the help of two Swiss guides, he was the first to ascend Mount Kenya, and it was thirty years before another climber succeeded in making what is still regarded as a very difficult ascent.

He retained his brilliant intellect until the end, inconvenienced only by increasing deafness, and only a few months before his death on March 6, 1947, he had visited his old Department at the School of Economics and discussed problems with his former colleagues and students. L. DUDLEY STAMP

#### Sir Ali Ibrahim Pasha, K.B.E.

THE death of Sir Ali Ibrahim Pasha, of Cairo, removes the greatest personality in the medical profession of the Middle East. Sir Ali's career was a model of what perseverance and study can do.

Born in 1880, he graduated from the Cairo School of Medicine in 1901. After holding a house appointment in the famous Kasr el Aini Hospital of Cairo, he began his career as a young assistant surgeon in the provincial hospitals of Upper Egypt. Within a

few years his skill as a surgeon, his personality as a humane doctor and a very pleasant colleague made his name popular and well known in many Mudirahs of Upper Egypt.

He was then recalled (in 1907) to take up an appointment as assistant surgeon at his old hospital, the Kasr el Aini. Again his charming personality, his diagnostic acumen and surgical skill soon made him the recognized surgeon in Cairo and later in the whole of Egypt.

He became dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 1928, and took an active part in the reorganisation of medical teaching, and in the draughting and execution of a huge programme of construction and equipment of the Departments of the Faculty and the teaching hospitals. In fact, his term of office as dean from 1928 until 1940 may be considered a period of renaissance in the history of medical education in Egypt.

Ali Pasha's activities extended far beyond the boundaries of a Faculty. He instituted and organised the Royal Egyptian Medical Association on the lines of the British Medical Association. That Association now has an imposing building of its own in Cairo, with a big ceremonial hall, a library, a museum, and it issues a medical journal.

Ali Pasha was an active member and later president of the Egyptian Red Cross Society.

He was instrumental in his short career as Minister of Health in passing through Parliament a Bill creating a Syndicate of the Medical Profession to look after the interests of the profession and to provide funds for an insurance scheme.

During the last six years Ali Pasha was rector of the Fouad I University of Cairo, when his constructive genius was again most productive and his powers of organisation were most evident.

His death at the age of sixty-six was certainly a great loss to the medical profession and to the whole of Egypt. I. S.

#### Major M. Connolly

MATTHEW WILLIAM KEMBLE CONNOLLY was born in Bath on February 13, 1872, the son of Vice-Admiral Matthew Connolly, R.N., and Harriet Connolly, *née* Kemble. He was educated at Haileybury and Sandhurst, and for some years led the life of the Army officer of his period. He married Muriel Vernon, of Clontarf Castle, Dublin, who, with their one son, survives him.

After retiring from the Army, Major Connolly became an unofficial scientific worker in the Department of Zoology of the British Museum. He was especially interested in the Mollusca, particularly the land and freshwater molluscs of Africa, of which he had profound knowledge and on which he was the leading authority. Many papers on this subject were published from 1910 onwards: the most important was, undoubtedly, "A Monographic Survey of South African Non-marine Mollusca" (*Ann. S. Africa Mus.*, 33, 1-660, pls. 1-19; 1939).

In later life Connolly was badly crippled by arthritis and could walk only with difficulty. Despite this handicap, he insisted on doing everything himself; indeed, I had known him for more than twenty years before he would let me walk across Cromwell Road with him, and even then only because the fog was thick and the crossing more than usually dangerous. Inside the Museum he went from room to

room, and from library to library with cheerful good humour.

Connolly joined the Malacological Society of London in 1908. Five years later, in 1913, he joined the Conchological Society, becoming its president for the session 1929-30; at the time of his death he was a vice-president. He was no narrow-minded specialist; his interests were wide, his knowledge of cookery and wines extensive. He remained in London for most,

if not all, of the war years, and was among the survivors when his hotel was largely destroyed by a flying bomb. That incident affected him more than he cared to admit: soon after the end of hostilities, he began to wind up his affairs in London in order to retire to Bath. This last plan was never realized; he died in South Kensington on February 26, 1947, and is buried in the family vault at Bath.

A. T. HOPWOOD

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Sir Roy Robinson, O.B.E.

It has been announced that Sir Roy Robinson will shortly relinquish his appointment as director-general of forestry. This will not, of course, mean that he is severing his official connexion with the forest administration of Great Britain, for he will remain chairman of the Forestry Commission, a post he has occupied since 1932. Sir Roy has been a member of the Commission ever since it was set up in 1919 on the recommendation of the Acland Report, in the preparation of which he himself took an important part. The adoption of that report marked a new era in British forestry, constituting the recognition, forced by the experiences of the First World War, that the State must accept responsibility for remedying the very unsatisfactory position in the matter of forests and timber supplies, with an inadequate area of forests and a very low production per acre. For some years he was the only professionally qualified forester on the Commission.

On a recent occasion, the Society of Foresters of Great Britain met to present to Sir Roy its medal in recognition of his distinguished services to forestry, services which incidentally have not been confined to Britain, for he has also taken a very active part in all four Empire Forest Conferences, presiding over the last one, held in 1935 in South Africa. In accepting the medal, he reviewed the work accomplished by the Commission, particularly during the difficult times when it was threatened with complete stoppage, and showed how almost all the arguments used against its activities and plans had later proved wrong. The Commission's 1943 Report on Post-war Forest Policy has been acknowledged in all quarters to be a very able document, though naturally enough all its proposals do not please everyone. It has been accepted by Parliament with only minor amendments as the basis of further work; it will probably come to be known as the Robinson Report, and form a landmark second only to the Acland Report. In the latest published annual report covering the year 1944-45, the total area of plantation is shown as closely approximating half a million acres, apart from another 150,000 acres on private or local authorities' lands in respect of which grants were paid. It is indeed a great achievement for twenty-five years, but only a step on the way, for Sir Roy has set us a new target—two million acres within the next fifty years—and urges that no excuses should be accepted for reducing or postponing it.

### Royal Geographical Society Awards

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has approved the award of the Royal Medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows:

*Founder's Medal*: Brigadier Martin Hotine,

director of Colonial Surveys, for his original research work in air survey, his contributions to the geodesy of Great Britain and Africa, and for his cartographic work during the Second World War; *Patron's Medal*: Colonel Daniel van der Meulen, for his exploratory journeys in the Hadhramaut in 1931 and 1939, and his contributions to the geography, archaeology and ethnography of Southern Arabia.

The Council of the Society has made the following awards:

*Victoria Medal*: Prof. E. G. R. Taylor, emeritus professor of geography in the University of London, for her contributions to the advancement of geographical knowledge, including the study of the geographical distribution of population and industry, the promotion of a National Atlas for Britain, and her studies in the development of geographical thought; *Murchison Grant*: Mr. Gordon Manley, for his observations on the meteorology of East Greenland and his research into mountain climates and snow cover in Britain; *Back Grant*: Lieut.-Colonel Andrew Croft, for his journeys in the Arctic, especially as second-in-command of the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1938, and in connexion with Exercise Muskox, 1946; *Cuthbert Peek Grant*, 1946: Mr. John Wright, for his survey work on expeditions to Iceland, Spitsbergen and Ellesmere Island, and in the Sudan during the War; *Cuthbert Peek Grant*, 1947: M. André Guibaut, for his exploration of the Salween gorges, Burma, 1936-37, and of the upper Tung valley on the Chinese-Tibetan borderland, 1940; *Gill Memorial*, 1947: Commander K. St. B. Collins, for bathymetric surveys between Scotland and Iceland and in Denmark Strait under enemy attack.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation: United Kingdom Committee

MR. GEORGE TOMLINSON, Minister of Education, has appointed the following committee to consult with him, in the widest possible terms, on all matters affecting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation: Mr. Tomlinson (chairman), Sir Ronald Adam, chairman, British Council; Dr. W. P. Alexander, secretary, Association of Education Committees; Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, University of Manchester; Mr. R. S. Brownell, secretary, Ministry of Education, Northern Ireland; Mr. R. A. Butler, M.P.; Mr. R. Gould, general secretary, National Union of Teachers; Mr. D. R. Hardman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education; Dr. W. A. F. Hepburn (Scotland); Sir John Maud, secretary, Ministry of Education; Dr. H. W. Meikle (Scotland); Sir Philip Morris, vice-chancellor, University of Bristol; Dr. Margaret Read, head of the Colonial Department, Institute of Education, Univers-