educated at Mason College (now part of the University of Birmingham), specializing in geology. In 1890 he was appointed to a post as geologist in the service of the Imperial British East Africa Company, and as the result spent the whole of his official life in East Africa. When the region was taken over by the Government and became the East Africa Protectorate, Hobley was transferred to the administrative side, being appointed a sub-commissioner in 1894, and as time went on was allotted posts of ever greater responsibility. He was acting deputy commissioner from 1903 until 1904 and again from 1906 until 1907, acting commissioner in 1904, and acting senior commissioner in 1907. In 1912 he was placed in charge of the Seyidieh Province, and during 1912-20 he was an official member of the Legislative Council of the East Africa Protectorate as well as Commissioner of Mines. Upon the outbreak of the First World War, Hobley was appointed chief political officer to the British Expeditionary Force in East Africa, his services receiving mention in dispatches. He retired from the Colonial Service in 1921. He had been awarded the C.M.G. in 1904. An important valley on the east side of Mount Kenya was named after him.

All his life Hobley retained a keen interest in Nature, especially in East Africa, where he varied his official duties by making several extensive and important collections for the British Museum. He belonged to the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Geological Society, and served on the councils of the first two in 1931 and of the third in 1930; he was also a corresponding fellow of the Zoological Society. In 1930 he became a member of the Advisory Board of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. His greatest services were, however, rendered to the movement to provide protection for animal species which otherwise, owing to ruthless commercial exploitation, would seriously diminish in numbers. In 1923 he was

appointed secretary of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, and held the post for thirteen years, until in 1936 health reasons compelled him to take life more easily. In 1931 he represented the Society at the Second International Conference for the Protection of Nature held at Paris. It may be recalled that as an immediate consequence of this Congress a conference of the African Powers was held in London in 1933, which produced the Convention for the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa now in force. His services to the Society were recognized by his election as vice-president.

Hobley married the daughter of the late Thomas Turner, of Sutton Coldfield, in 1905; she died in 1940. The son and daughter of the marriage survive.

G. F. HERBERT SMITH

Prof. Paul Reiss

PAUL REISS, *professeur agrégé* in the Faculty of Medicine at Strasbourg, was killed at St. Just (Cantal) on June 22, 1944, when helping to evacuate wounded members of the *Maquis*. He was forty-three years old. Reiss was born at Strasbourg. He was both personally attractive and one of the more brilliant of the younger French biologists. He was a pupil of Fred Vlès. His early work was on the relation of pH and rH to the physico-chemical equilibria in cells, from which he went on to enzyme studies, and thence to cancer work. He is buried in the crypt of the Sorbonne with others who fell in the Resistance Movement.

H. MUNRO FOX

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Leopold Portheim, formerly director of the Biological Research Institute of the Academy of Science in Vienna, on May 21, in London.

Prof. W. Rogowski, professor of electrotechnics at the Technical Highschool, Aachen, well known before the War for his electrotechnical work.

NEWS and VIEWS

Research in Mechanical Engineering

THE Government, through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, is setting up a special organisation to carry out scientific research in mechanical engineering to meet and, still more, to anticipate, the needs of industry and Government departments. The eventual annual expenditure will be in the region of £250,000-£350,000, although it is unlikely that this figure can be reached for some years because of the present difficulties in obtaining suitably qualified staff and buildings. The activities of the new body are intended mainly to supplement the research carried on in other research organisations in Great Britain, and will largely be confined to those fundamental problems which underlie all mechanical engineering. Thus the subjects in which research is expected to be carried out are: (a) properties and strength of materials; (b) mechanics of solids, stress, stability and vibration of structures; (c) mechanics of fluids; aerodynamics, gas dynamics and hydraulics in their mechanical engineering applications; (d) lubrication, wear and mechanical engineering aspects of corrosion; (e) mechanisms, engineering metrology, and noise control; (f) mechanics of formation of materials; machine shaping of materials; (g) heat transfer, heat exchange apparatus and applied

thermodynamics. The location of the research station has not yet been decided. For the time being much of the work will be carried out at the National Physical Laboratory, while other work will be arranged for at universities and other institutions. It is clear that the new station will have to work in the closest liaison with the N.P.L., which has a long tradition, in its Engineering Division, of engineering research of high quality, and which will provide the nucleus, in due course, of the new organisation. Unfortunately no land is available close at hand for the building of the new station, which will require a considerable area.

Dr. G. A. Hankins, superintendent of the Engineering Division of the National Physical Laboratory, has been appointed director of mechanical engineering research. As with all other research organisations in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the director will be advised by a board, the members of which will serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any organisation to which they may belong. The composition of the Mechanical Engineering Research Board is as follows: Dr. H. L. Guy (*chairman*); Mr. L. Akehurst, operative, London Passenger Transport Board; Prof. R. N. Arnold, professor of engineering, University of