

Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1947. He was knighted in 1946. The last of his many honours, the Gold Medal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of America, was presented shortly before his death.

He was immensely proud of the City of London's tribute to him when during the last two years of the War he was Master of the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers.

Paterson was a notable and delightful lecturer, and was at his best when his subject lent itself to experiment and demonstration. Among his outstanding lectures and papers may be mentioned the Faraday Lecture of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, "The Free Electron"; the Guthrie Lecture, "The Appraisal of Lighting"; the J. J. Thomson Jubilee Lecture, "The Electron Liberated"; and the British Association York Meeting, "The Use of Photocells".

Opportunities for relaxation and recreation to a man of Paterson's capacity for devotion to the service of his Company and the profession of which he was so distinguished a member were few; but his hobbies of gardening and yachting were a never-failing source of interest and delight to him. His garden, which Lady Paterson and he planned themselves, and the original formation of which was largely the result of their own labours, was much admired by all who were privileged to see it. The majority of his holidays were spent in his yacht on the River Deben at Waldringfield.

By Paterson's death the engineering profession suffers an inestimable loss. The records of his work remain, and are available. Through the great organisation which he built up his influence will be perpetuated; but we shall miss his sound and mature counsel, which grew out of his accumulated experiences and widespread contacts and activities.

Lady Paterson, two sons and a daughter survive him.

A. P. M. FLEMING

### Mr. J. R. Cowie

ON August 5, Mr. John R. Cowie died aged sixty-six leaving a widow, two sons and one daughter. Chairman of the Council of the Electrical Research Association since the spring of this year, he had been a member of the Council since 1924. This long association with industrial research was particularly concerned with circuit-breaking phenomena and

switchgear, which was the first and remains the largest item of research and development in the Association's programme.

Mr. Cowie was especially qualified for leadership both by experience and character. A native of Scotland, he was educated in Edinburgh (Watson's and the Heriot-Watt College) and Glasgow. Apprenticed to William Thomson and Co., he also worked with the British Electric Plant Co., and William Beardmore and Co., before joining the Glasgow Corporation, where he was associated with the late Mr. Lackie and Sir Archibald Page and concerned, *inter alia*, with the Dalmarnock power station and the raising of steam pressures. He joined A. Reyrolle and Co. twenty-seven years ago and was southern area manager at the time of his death. During this period he was associated with most of the great electrical developments in London and in the South and West of England and Wales. He served on the Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers during 1919-22, and in 1937 was president of the Association of Mining Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. His influence in the electrical industry was great. Few leading engineers had the same depth of experience and association with great and new projects both on the supply and the manufacturing sides. No one was more trusted or, indeed, more trustworthy. In negotiation and in matters of discretion his wise counsel and his strong principles were ever in request. His clearness of thought, sincerity and frankness of expression were nevertheless allied to great kindness. He was a loyal friend and his help was freely given to those who approached him. His subordinates thought as highly of him as his colleagues. He was esteemed not only by engineers but also by those he met in his many sports and hobbies—rugby, hockey, golf, fishing, horticulture and dog-breeding. His convictions inspired respect and his character affection.

S. WHITEHEAD

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. P. R. Lowe, O.B.E., formerly keeper in charge of ornithology, British Museum (Natural History), on August 18, aged seventy-eight.

Prof. A. F. C. Pollard, emeritus professor of physics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, on August 15, aged seventy.

Prof. S. W. J. Smith, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physics in the University of Birmingham, on August 20, aged seventy-seven years.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Sociology in the London School of Economics:

Prof. D. V. Glass

THE University of London has just established a new chair of sociology, tenable at the London School of Economics, and has elected Dr. D. V. Glass as the first occupant. This, the third chair in sociology in the School, is designed to promote teaching and research in the sociology of contemporary society and in current methods of collecting and analysing data obtainable by field studies and social surveys. It is therefore a post which offers great opportunities, and Dr. Glass' experience is particularly relevant. He is well known as a demographer of international repute, his most substantial work in this field being "Population Policies and Movements in Europe". He has

for many years been research secretary of the Population Investigation Committee and was put in charge of the Family Census by the Royal Commission on Population. His interests have always been more in the social aspects of population than in pure statistical demography. He served his apprenticeship in social research under Prof. Lancelot Hogben, undertaking studies of educational opportunity in Great Britain, and he also published a little book on "The Town" in 1935. All this suggests that he is likely to turn his attention to such questions as family and household structure, local and occupational groups, and social mobility and stratification. These are all eminently subjects for the study of which the chair has been instituted.