

Military Academy, near Oxford. In 1888 he entered Brasenose College as an undergraduate, and obtained second classes in Classical Moderations and Literæ Humaniores (1891). In the same year he married. He was already interested in Greek military history, and a geographical studentship enabled him to remain in Oxford, and also to visit the battlefields of Thermopylæ, Marathon and Plataea, where his military knowledge and skill as a field surveyor enabled him to put the study of Greek tactics on a firm basis. His account of Plataea was published by the Royal Geographical Society as a supplement to the *Geographical Journal*; other papers appeared in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, including a study and survey of Pylos and Sphaacteria.

Grundy owed much at this period to the encouragement of Henry Pelham, who as Camden professor of ancient history was a fellow of Brasenose, and was interested in all modern developments of classical studies, and especially in archæology and geography. Grundy lectured for Pelham in 1897, and later for Brasenose College, where he was given full charge of the teaching of ancient history. For his geographical studies he received the Conington Prize in 1900, after standing *proxime* for the Arnold Prize in 1899. When the School of Geography was founded, he was appointed lecturer in ancient geography, and drew considerable classes in military and economic subjects.

In 1902 Grundy published "The Great Persian War", incorporating all his special interests in a general narrative; this was written in a lively style. Further travels in Greece led to an adventure near the north-west frontier, and to even keener interest in modern Greek politics. His historical studies were continued in "Thucydides and his Age", published in

1911, and reissued, with a second volume, in the year of his death. He travelled also in Italy, visiting especially ancient battlefields; and he had a wide interest in Roman and Saxon Britain, especially in boundaries and field names, which he hunted widely over the countryside.

In 1902 Grundy was appointed to a fellowship and tutorship of Corpus Christi College, then ruled by Thomas Case, who appreciated his vigour and originality. Here he taught continuously until 1931, taking keen interest in all aspects of college life, and also in university business. He was a champion of unpopular causes, and a vigorous speaker in Congregation, but took no part in administration. An all-round athlete until middle life, he became later an expert croquet player. He was a frequent contributor of light verse to the *Oxford Magazine*, translated selections from the "Greek Anthology", and in 1945 published an 'unconventional biography', the record of his "Fifty-Five Years at Oxford".

JOHN L. MYRES

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Frank Nasmith, a founder member and president during 1938-39 of the Textile Institute, on November 16.

Dr. M. C. Rayner (Mrs. W. Neilson Jones), formerly head of the Department of Botany, University College, Reading, known for her work in forestry research, on December 17.

Dr. G. Scott Robertson, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, and formerly professor of agricultural chemistry in Queen's University, Belfast, aged fifty-three.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### East Malling Research Station:

Dr. R. G. Hatton, C.B.E., F.R.S.

THE many friends and scientific colleagues of Dr. R. G. Hatton will learn with regret of his resignation from the directorship of the East Malling Research Station for reasons of ill-health. For some years he has been far from well and, though advised medically to take things more easily, Hatton is not the man to let up on his work if he is physically capable of getting to his office. Born in 1886, he is a Balliol man who after graduating, decided his interests lay in agriculture and horticulture; and he went to Wye College, later becoming acting-director during the First World War of what was then the College's Fruit Experimental Station at East Malling. When it became an independent research station in 1918, Hatton was its first director, and it is to his personal energy, vision and administrative ability that the Station owes its present position as one of the foremost horticultural research centres of the world. His own work on the sorting-out and classification of fruit-tree rootstocks would alone justify his high position in science and his fame among fruit-growers in all countries. Apart from his many scientific writings, Hatton, in his early years, made one excursion into general literature. His delightful "Folk of the Furrow" was published in 1913 under the pen name of "Christopher Holdenby", and it was many years before even his closest friends knew that he was the author.

### The National Physical Laboratory, Physics Division:

Dr. B. W. Robinson

DR. BERNARD WHEELER ROBINSON was appointed in October 1948 as superintendent of the Physics Division, National Physical Laboratory, in succession to Mr. W. F. Higgins. Dr. Robinson was born in 1904. He studied mathematics and physics at Trinity College, Cambridge, and then spent two years at the Cavendish Laboratory under Lord Rutherford. Afterwards as research assistant to Sir William Bragg at the Davy Faraday Laboratory, Royal Institution, he specialized in instrument design and the technique of X-ray crystallography. He later held the post of senior lecturer in physics at the Military College of Science. During the Second World War, Dr. Robinson was associated with the development of gunsight and fire-control instruments for aircraft, including the 'gyro-gunsight'. He was later concerned with work on the remote control of aircraft guns, a project closely related to the extensive wartime advances in the field of servomechanisms. Finally, under the Directorate of Armament Development, Ministry of Aircraft Production, he was in general charge of fire-control research. After the War, Dr. Robinson was engaged on specialized instrument work for the National Institute of Medical Research, translating the requirements of the physiologist and biochemist into the design of new physical instruments.