

as a writer of concise but informative and critical abstracts.

Cunningham will be remembered as a man with a forceful personality who frequently gave expression to his strongly held opinions and acute judgments. These qualities were combined with an exceptionally wide knowledge of bacteriology. He was invariably interesting and helpful as a contributor to scientific discussions, and he was a most useful member of committees. His health had been progressively deteriorating for some time before his death. He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1921.

T. GIBSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. Sydney H. Ball, mining consultant to the U.S. War Production Board, known for his work on the geology of the United States and of the Belgian Congo, on April 10, aged seventy-one.

Prof. Jules Drach, member of the Section of Mechanics of the Paris Academy of Sciences, professor of analytical mechanics at the Sorbonne, on March 7, aged seventy-seven.

Dr. A. D. Imms, F.R.S., lately reader in entomology in the University of Cambridge, on April 3, aged sixty-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

National Chemical Laboratory of India :

Prof. J. W. McBain, F.R.S.

It is announced that Prof. J. W. McBain, who has recently retired from the chair of physical chemistry at Leland Stanford University, California, has been appointed the first director of the National Chemical Laboratory of India. It is difficult to think of a better choice. While his many English friends have not seen so much of him since he left the University of Bristol, yet they have been able to follow his steady development of the concept of the micellar structure of colloidal electrolytes, a chapter in physical chemistry which is particularly his own. The number of papers which have emerged from Bristol and Stanford is indeed prodigious, and the world is richer for the numerous students whom he has trained. Not only are we indebted to McBain for a great extension of our knowledge of the colligative properties of these solutions, as well as conductivity and surface action, but also the behaviour of such colloidal solutions in respect to the interesting properties of emulsions and emulsion polymerization, solubilization and the like, have been fully explored by him. While his main interest has lain in this field, we must recollect that we are also indebted to him for coining the word 'sorption', thus directing attention to the complexity of the interactions between a gas and a solid, and that his treatment of the subject of adhesion in the British Association Reports still remains a classic. His many friends and colleagues will wish him well in this new and important venture.

Royal Geographical Society : Awards for 1949

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has approved the award of the Royal Medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows : *Founder's Medal* : Prof. L. Dudley Stamp, professor of geography, London School of Economics, for his work in organising and directing the Land Utilization Survey of Great Britain and his application of geography to national planning ; *Patron's Medal* : Prof. Hans Pettersson, professor of oceanography at Göteborg Hogskola, Sweden, for his leadership of the recent oceanographical cruise in the *Albatross*, in the course of which much new evidence has been obtained as to the geology of the ocean floor. The Council of the Society has made the following awards : *Murchison Grant* : Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Thompson, for original researches in the techniques of air survey, and for the development of stereoplotting machines ; *Back Grant* : Dr. Brian Roberts, research fellow of the

Scott Polar Research Institute, for his contributions to polar history and to the technique of polar travel ; *Cuthbert Peek Grant* : Mr. A. B. Crawford, for surveys and meteorological work carried out by him at Tristan da Cunha and Marion Island ; *Gill Memorial* : Dr. O. H. K. Spate, reader in geography at the London School of Economics, for his work on the geography of India and Burma.

Scientific Liaison Officer in France :

Mr. A. H. Waterfield

IN agreement with the Foreign Office, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed Mr. A. H. Waterfield, a principal scientific officer, formerly of the Ministry of Supply, for scientific liaison duties in France, with the rank of attaché at the British Embassy in Paris. Mr. Waterfield, who is a metallurgist with special experience in the light-alloy field, was formerly on the headquarters staff of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, later the Ministry of Supply, and during the past year has been secretary of the Inter-Service Metallurgical Research Council. During 1946-47 he was attached to the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington for metallurgical liaison duties.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich : Transfer to Hurstmonceux

IN the House of Commons on March 25, Mr. Hollis raised certain important points about the conditions prevailing at Hurstmonceux and also regarding the delay in assembling the instruments and in providing adequate accommodation for the staff. Mr. Hollis dealt with a number of matters that have already been emphasized by the Astronomer Royal in the Report for 1948 to the Board of Visitors and repeated by the Chief Assistant elsewhere. Mr. Hollis urged that the work at Hurstmonceux should be given an extremely high priority and pushed forward with all dispatch. The cost of the building necessary to put the new Observatory into full commission amounts to about half a million pounds, and, while admitting that such an amount cannot be treated lightly, it was pointed out that the prestige of Great Britain has been highly valued on account of the position of the meridian of Greenwich, and that there are "few matters on which such a sum could be better spent". In addition to scientific issues, Mr. Hollis raised another point—the artistic problem of Hurstmonceux. The south side of the castle presents an unsightly spectacle with a number of temporary huts of brick