

and human welfare. In individuals, whether students, colleagues or visiting men of science, he found a ready interest; his church claimed his loyalty and service, and to the American Association for the Advancement of Science he gave his counsel as one of its national officers for some years.

Prof. Reed leaves his mark indelibly on the literature of botany and plant physiology: he will long be remembered with affection by a wide circle of colleagues, students and friends in many lands.

F. C. STEWARD
J. DUFRENOY

Prof. W. J. Dilling

PROF. WALTER JAMES DILLING, who had held the chair of pharmacology at the University of Liverpool since 1930, died at Coniston on August 18 at the age of sixty-four.

Educated at Robert Gordon's College and the University of Aberdeen, he graduated M.B., Ch.B. with honours in 1907. He became second assistant to Prof. J. A. MacWilliam in the Department of Physiology and was afterwards appointed Carnegie research scholar in physiology. In 1909, as Carnegie research fellow in pharmacology, he studied in Germany and was for a time first assistant to Rudolf Kobert, professor of pharmacology and physiological chemistry at the University of Rostock. He returned to Aberdeen in 1910 to become lecturer in pharmacology, where he conducted a course in experimental pharmacology for medical students, which was the first of its kind in Great Britain. In 1914 he was appointed to the new Robert Pollok lectureship in materia medica and pharmacology in the University of Glasgow. His work there was interrupted by war service, and in 1915 he was commissioned in the R.A.M.C., with which he served until 1919. After a further period in Glasgow he went as lecturer in pharmacology to Liverpool in 1920. His merits as teacher and administrator soon gained recognition; he received the title of associate professor in 1926 and in 1930 was appointed to the newly created chair of pharmacology.

Prof. Dilling was deservedly popular with his students. His carefully prepared and constantly revised lectures were full of vitality and were embellished by humorous sallies which delighted his hearers. He was dean of the Faculty of Medicine during 1924-35 and again during 1939-45. His wise tolerance and able administration earned him the gratitude of colleagues and students alike. He was twice a member of the University Council. He was at various times an examiner to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, St. Andrews, Bristol, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and Wales.

In 1938 he was nominated to the General Medical Council, and in 1948 became chairman of its Pharmacopœia Committee. He was a Privy Council representative on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society and served as a member of the Pharmacology Committee for the British Pharmacopœia, 1948.

Prof. Dilling was the author of many papers on physiological and pharmacological subjects. Early researches led to the publication of an "Atlas of Crystals and Spectra of the Hamochromogens" in 1910. Other studies included investigations into the pharmacological actions of certain unfamiliar plants, of quinine on the parturient uterus and of lead compounds. He also wrote on medical historical subjects. But it was as a writer of text-books that

he excelled. Very early in his career he edited Bruce's "Textbook of *Materia Medica*", which became widely known to generations of students as "Bruce and Dilling". Frequent revisions were undertaken with characteristic energy and thoroughness, and were remarkable not only for their clear presentation of the most recent developments in pharmacology, but also for their understanding of the clinical problems attending the application of drugs, new and old. Under the revised title of "The Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the *Materia Medica*", the book had reached its eighteenth edition in 1944 and revision for the nineteenth edition was almost complete at the time of his death. From 1940 onwards he contributed the important chapter on recent developments in drug therapy to the annual "Medical Progress" volume of the "British Encyclopædia of Medical Practice". He had a profound knowledge of his subject as applied to both veterinary and dental practice. He was joint author, with S. Hallam, of another widely used text-book, "Dental *Materia Medica*, Pharmacology and Therapeutics", now in its third edition.

His interests were wide and embraced many subjects besides pharmacology. He had a life-long love of music and was chairman of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society for several years. At his home in Coniston he was a countryman, keenly interested in rural ways and Lakeland life, of which he acquired an extensive knowledge. To a keen and critical intellect he joined the utmost friendliness, and those who approached him for advice or help found him ready to give freely of his time and energies to the solution of their problems. During the Second World War he commanded the medical company of the University Senior Training Corps and spent long hours with his student stretcher bearers receiving casualties at the railway terminus, sometimes far into the night. These and other war-time activities took heavy toll of his energies and eventually of his health, and he never fully recovered from the prolonged strain which a high sense of duty imposed upon him. His loss is mourned by a wide circle of friends. He leaves a widow and two daughters. R. W. BROOKFIELD

Mr. C. W. Parsons

CHARLES WYNFORD PARSONS was born in 1901 at Swansea, the son of Tom Posslethwaite Parsons. He was educated at Bristol Grammar School, proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1920, and, after graduation in 1924, was appointed assistant in the Department of Zoology, University of Glasgow. There he remained, attaining the position of senior lecturer, until his untimely death at Birmingham on August 26.

Parsons's first published work was on the behaviour of *Amœba*; but his interests soon changed, as was but natural in a department then under the direction of Graham Kerr and noted for its contributions to vertebrate morphology and embryology. After a valuable paper on the conus arteriosus in fishes, he received for examination the penguin embryos collected during the *Discovery* investigations, and his beautifully illustrated report on these, published in "Discovery Reports" in 1932, represents his major contribution to zoological knowledge. It was followed two years later by an account of similar material collected during the course of the British Antarctic (*Terra Nova*) Expedition of 1910. This included

embryos of the emperor penguin collected by Wilson, Bowers and Cherry-Garrard in the course of a terrible five-week journey in the antarctic winter of 1911. It was always a matter of pride to Charles Parsons that he was able, after a long series of misadventures at other hands, to publish the results of their labours.

But his interests were far wider than research. From the day of his arrival in Glasgow, Parsons threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Department and into the life of the University. He was keenly interested in what was then the O.T.C. and rose to the rank of major in command of the Artillery Unit. He served on the Faculties of Science and Medicine, was for some time a member of Senate and sat on many University committees. On three occasions he took charge for lengthy periods of the Department. He took great pride in the Hunterian Museum of Zoology, which he represented on the Scottish branch of the Museums Association. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edin-

burgh in 1933 and served on its Council. He was a vice-president of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow and was a member of the Executive Committee, later Council, of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, acting as chairman for several periods. The marine laboratory at Millport owes much to him.

By his colleagues in the Department of Zoology at Glasgow and in the University generally, as well as by innumerable students, he will long be remembered as a most lovable man. He was an admirable teacher, always fresh and stimulating and keenly interested in his students. He served under three professors of zoology, all of whom survive him—Sir John Graham Kerr, Dr. Edward Hindle and the writer. Each had the benefit of his completely unselfish devotion to the Department, and all unite in their appreciation of him as friend and colleague. He was most happily married, and the profound sympathy of many friends goes out to Mrs. Parsons and to their four children.

C. M. YONGE

NEWS and VIEWS

University of Birmingham

SIR RAYMOND PRIESTLEY, whose tenure of office of vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham would normally end this year, has been asked to continue in office for a further period and has expressed his willingness to do so. This decision will give much pleasure to students and staff, for they have a warm regard for Sir Raymond. It will also give the vice-chancellor an opportunity of realizing at least part of the object for which he was appointed, namely, that of the bringing together of all the departments of the University on to the Edgbaston site and so ending the present fission.

A notable development in the coming session is the establishment of postgraduate courses in mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and metallurgy. Arrangements are being made for thirty-six postgraduate students to be selected by the University from candidates who are graduates or have equivalent qualifications and who have spent some years in industry. These will be assisted with grants of £220-£400 from the University Grants Committee. For the accommodation of these postgraduate students a large house in Edgbaston has been acquired as a hostel which can hold up to forty men. The success of the scheme requires the co-operation of industrialists who may have to make some sacrifice to enable some of their key men to avail themselves of this opportunity, but it is believed that the consequent benefits will well repay the sacrifice. A considerable part of the new buildings of the Mechanical Engineering Department is already in use, and more will be available in the ensuing session. Much of the equipment has been the gift of large firms who have shown sympathetic appreciation of the nature of closer contact between the University and industry.

Economy of Greenland

MUCH useful information about Greenland and valuable statistical tables relating to that country's demography, climatic conditions, trade, fishing industry and social life is contained in a work entitled "Economic Principles of the Greenland Administration before 1947" (pp. 215; København: C. A. Reitzels Forlag, 1949; 18.50 kr.). The author, Mr. P. P. Sveistrup, is well qualified to write on the

subject, as he has spent nineteen years in the administration of Greenland. In recent years, Greenland's foreign trade has been largely concerned with the export of salted cod, the cod fisheries now having replaced sealing as the main economic activity. The decline in sealing has been caused by hunting in the breeding grounds and possibly also by a change in climate, as there appears to be a close connexion between the quantities of pack-ice (which carries the seals with it) and the catch of seals. This change has meant that Greenlanders have now to rely on imports from the outside world to a greater extent than formerly when the seals, through their various joint products—meat, blubber and skins—furnished most of the necessities for living. The only mineral at present being worked is cryolite, which is of considerable economic importance. The author devotes much of his space to the price policy that has been followed, and that which ought to be followed, by the administration. He points out that Greenland's economic structure is such that export prices fluctuate far more violently than import prices, and he concludes that, since imports are necessary for existence, a trade monopoly which stabilizes prices and thus isolates the Greenlanders from the trade cycle is desirable. To the economist, the sociologist and the geographer, Greenland is of especial interest in that, owing to its climate, it is very near the limit of minimal existence. It is therefore to be regretted that the translation of this book from the Danish into English has not been well done and that much patience is required to unravel what is meant by many of the paragraphs.

The Census of England and Wales for 1931

THE Registrar-General for England and Wales has recently published the "General Report on the Census of England and Wales, 1931" (London: H.M. Stationery Office; 10s. net). This is the final publication of the Census of 1931. It was largely completed in 1936, but final completion was delayed by the necessity of concentrating on the supplementary county volumes, the last of which appeared in 1940. Shortage of staff and pressure of war-time work made publication during the War an impossibility. As a result of the long delay, most of the