

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