

He graduated at Edinburgh, and after a period of research at Cambridge returned to his University as lecturer in palaeontology under Prof. James Geikie. In 1914 he was appointed lecturer in geology at King's College, London, taking charge of what was then quite a small department. He maintained it during the First World War, and in the succeeding phase of expansion his vigour and organizing ability developed it so considerably that the title of professor of geology was conferred on him in 1921. He occupied the chair for twenty-seven years.

During these earlier years, Prof. Gordon laid the foundations of his notable work on the Lower Carboniferous flora. His name will always be associated with two famous localities for petrified fossil plants on the shores of the Firth of Forth, Pettycur and Gullane. He developed the interesting and important theory that favourable opportunities for such petrifications were found in the vicinity of freshly deposited beds of volcanic ash subjected to contemporary weathering, and he successfully applied this theory in guiding his field collection. He published detailed accounts of a number of important species. One of his most important contributions was the collection of complete material for the description of the genus *Pitys*, published in 1935. His interests also ranged widely in the field of invertebrate palaeontology, and he made an important addition to our knowledge of the rather enigmatical group of the Archæocyathinæ based on material from Antarctica. Further, though he published little on the mineralogical side of his subject, he had wide

knowledge of the gemstones, particularly of the diamond: he was active as a consultant in this field for the greater part of his working life.

Prof. Gordon served as secretary and vice-president of the Geological Society of London, as president of Section C (Geology) of the British Association at the Aberdeen meeting, and he was active in the work of many other societies. It is much more difficult to express in short compass any adequate appreciation of his services to his College and University. He was a real friend to the students of King's College and a notable teacher of his subject. Old students of his are at present serving as heads of three of the Schools of Geology in the University of London, including his own. He did much also to develop the teaching of engineering geology and geography at King's College. But his memory will live in the minds of many who never entered his Department, for his strength of character and great personal charm made him a notable figure in the general College life, and he gave freely of his abounding energy and vitality of mind to a wide circle both within and beyond the College walls.

S. W. WOOLDRIDGE

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Lieut.-Colonel J. P. Mead, C.B.E., formerly director of forestry in Malaya, on January 2, aged sixty-four.

Mr. W. F. Perree, C.I.E., during 1919-25 chief conservator of forests and president of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, on December 6, aged seventy-nine.

NEWS and VIEWS

Theoretical Physics at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne: Prof. G. S. Rushbrooke

DR. G. S. RUSHBROOKE has been appointed as from next September to the chair of theoretical physics at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, which replaces that of experimental physics occupied by Prof. G. W. Todd until his death in February 1950. Dr. Rushbrooke studied at Cambridge, gaining first classes in Parts I and II and a distinction in Part III of the Mathematical Tripos, and several prizes. After graduating, in 1936, he worked first with R. H. Fowler on statistical theory, and was awarded the Rayleigh Prize for an essay on the theory of solutions, in 1938. He proceeded to the Ph.D. degree in 1940, after having spent a year as research assistant to Prof. N. F. Mott at Bristol. He then moved to University College, Dundee, where he worked first in the Department of Mathematics and afterwards in the Department of Physical Chemistry. During these five years he published numerous papers on a variety of subjects, mostly mathematical-chemical in character. From 1945 until 1948 he was working chiefly on research problems, in the Departments of Mathematics and Chemistry of the University of Leeds, and he then proceeded to Oxford as senior lecturer in theoretical physics, which post he still holds. Dr. Rushbrooke has published or collaborated in more than twenty original papers covering a wide field in mathematical physics and chemistry. His main interest is in statistical mechanics, and he has written a book on the subject which has been very well received. He will be welcomed at Newcastle, not only by the Department of Physics but also by those of mathematics and chemistry.

Sir James Cantlie (1851-1926)

To the specialist in tropical diseases, Sir James Cantlie, who was born one hundred years ago, on January 17, 1851, is known as the founder of the London School of Tropical Medicine, of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and of the *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. The first-aid worker remembers him as the creator of the College of Ambulance, the author of popular Red Cross manuals, and the inventor of a bullet-proof ambulance stretcher for rescue work in the trenches, while members of the Royal Army Medical Corps recall that his Voluntary Medical Staff Corps was the parent of the Royal Army Medical Corps of the Territorial Army. To the layman, Cantlie is the rescuer of Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Chinese Republic; the evangelist of 'physical jerks'; author of "Degeneration amongst Londoners"; the man who advocated a national society for the prevention of decaying teeth, suggested bringing sea air in pipes from Brighton to London, and attacked the Eton jacket for exposing the loins. A versatile man, possessed of infectious vitality and a keen spirit of adventure, Cantlie was a fine teacher, an entertaining speaker and writer, and an amusing companion. His was a veritable genius for inventing things great and small. His many and varied public services have tended to overshadow his contributions to medicine, such as his operation for liver abscess, for which he introduced instruments of his own design. Cantlie was a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and was appointed assistant surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital at the youthful age of twenty-six. He was created K.B.E. in 1918 and died on March 28, 1926, in his seventy-fifth year.