

and Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and of the Order of the Thistle. The sermon will be preached by Prof. Donald M. Baillie, of the University of St. Andrews. Representatives of the City and of the University will also be present.

A list of the sectional presidents and the titles of their addresses appeared in *Nature* of April 7, p. 547.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the British Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1, or from the Local Secretaries, 3, Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, 8. A provisional programme is already available, and a full programme giving detailed arrangements will be published about July 10.

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society : Election of Foreign Members

THE following have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society : Prof. Herbert McLean Evans (Berkeley, Cal.), distinguished for his researches in anatomy, embryology and particularly in the field of experimental endocrinology ; Prof. Karl Spencer Lashley (Cambridge, Mass.), distinguished for his studies of the neurological basis of animal behaviour and of the factors involved in learning ; Dr. Carl Fredrik Störmer (Oslo), distinguished for his researches on the motion of charged particles in magnetic fields and on auroral phenomena ; and Dr. Ralph Walter Graystone Wyckoff (Bethesda, Md.), distinguished for his contributions to the study of viruses.

Forestry at Edinburgh : Prof. E. P. Stebbing

It has recently been announced that Prof. E. P. Stebbing will retire from the chair of forestry in the University of Edinburgh at the end of the current session. Thus will terminate a very remarkable record in university forestry teaching, as Prof. Stebbing became the lecturer in forestry more than forty years ago when in 1910 he succeeded Colonel Bailey ; in 1920 the lectureship was raised to a chair, with Prof. Stebbing as the first occupant. He went to Edinburgh from India after seventeen years of work in the Indian Forest Service, having devoted most of the latter part of that time to entomology. Although entomological work was gradually crowded out after his return to Great Britain, he has always retained very great interest in Indian forestry, and we owe to him an outstandingly valuable history of the forests of India, a very large undertaking in three volumes, aggregating nearly 1,900 pages. Prof. Stebbing has long been a very ardent advocate of the conservation of vegetation for the protection of soil and water supply, and has taken an active part in directing public attention to the consequences of denudation by overgrazing and injudicious clearing for cultivation, particularly on desert fringes such as those of the Sahara. This interest, together with his Indian experience of forest organization, protection and management, may be said to have provided the keynotes of his teaching, with his very wide first-hand knowledge of the forests of several continents. The outstanding features of his methods would appear to be the stress laid on some of the practical aspects of the professional forester's work, such as engineering and surveying, and on the value of what might be termed the orthodox or Continental working plan for management ; he has not been in favour of any extension of the fundamental scientific training which would involve lengthening the course or displacing items of the established undergraduate syllabus. As a teacher, Prof. Stebbing's influence on forestry must have been comparable with that of his own instructor, William Schlich, particularly in Great Britain and in the Colonies, in view of the large

numbers of forestry students who have passed through his hands over so long a period.

Rumford Premium of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences : Dr. H. E. Ives

THE American Academy of Arts and Sciences has awarded the Rumford Premium for 1951 to Dr. Herbert E. Ives, of Upper Montclair, New Jersey. The Premium was founded by the Academy in honour of the American-born scientific worker, Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, and is awarded every second year in recognition of important discoveries in heat and light. Dr. Ives was with the Bell Telephone Laboratories during 1919-47 and has made outstanding contributions to optics, including the first accurate determination of the visibility function of the average human eye, scientific methods of colour measurement and specification, and other developments in the physics of light measurement. His practical applications in photo-electricity include the development in the Bell Telephone Laboratories of a method of sending photographs over telephone lines, now in general use by newspapers, and a demonstration (in 1927) of television over long distances by wire and radio. Dr. Ives is a former president of the Optical Society of America and a vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Optical Society of America : Honorary Members

THE Optical Society of America announces in the editorial to the February number of the Society's *Journal* (41, 63 ; 1951) that Profs. R. A. Millikan and A. Sommerfeld have been elected to honorary membership of the Society. In the citations it is stated that Prof. Millikan's most important contributions to optics have been in the photo-electric determination of Planck's constant and in the extension of spectral measurements by the condensed spark vacuum spectrograph. He is best known for his work on the photo-electric effect and on the electronic charge, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1923. Perhaps not so well known is that he, together with C. R. Mann, in 1902, first translated Drude's "Theory of Optics" into English. For Prof. A. Sommerfeld, emeritus professor of theoretical physics in the University of Munich, who is now in his eighty-fourth year and still continues to be active in scientific work, his classic book "Atombau und Spektrallinien" is quoted as sufficient evidence for the award, though mention is also made of several, among a very long list, of famous physicists who have been his pupils at one time or another.

Museums of Nature and Man

DR. A. E. PARR, director of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, introduced a stimulating discussion at the recent biennial conference of