

extended the official search for novelty of inventions to general literature, and taking a very active part in the reform of the Trade Marks law which resulted in the passing of the Trade Marks Act of 1938. The later period was dominated by administration of the Patent Office in war-time when, in spite of bomb and fire damage and much devastation, the work of the Office was carried on continuously. During this period he worked unsparingly at settling the terms of licences for working enemy-owned patents and copy-

rights, and in dealing with emergency legislation in all branches of Patent Office work. After retiring from the Patent Office he acted for two years as scientific adviser to the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, in spite of failing health. He endured the progress of Parkinson's disease with conspicuous courage and was bravely upheld by Lady Lindley, whom he first met at Birkbeck College and who survives him with a son and daughter.

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. Elizabeth A. Fraser

WITH the departure of Dr. E. A. Fraser, the Department of Zoology at University College, London, loses its member of the longest standing. When she joined the Department as a student in 1905 it was headed by E. A. Minchin; but it was under his successor J. P. Hill that she began those original studies in vertebrate development which have been her chief scientific interest ever since. This work has, among other things, contributed much to our understanding of the evolutionary morphology of the excretory organ of the vertebrates, and has provided the basis of our knowledge of the segmental structures of the marsupial head. All her work shows the accuracy and care in minute observation that is an important part of the heritage of classical embryology. With this she combines an appreciation at once sympathetic and critical of the schools of experimental morphology that has served as an admirable stimulus to her many students. Past students of the Department have, indeed, much to thank her for. Whether as assistant, senior lecturer, reader, acting head of the Department (during its war-time evacuation), or since the War as an honorary research associate, she has followed their progress with helpful interest and has never spared herself in their service.

John Kidd, F.R.S. (1775-1851)

JOHN KIDD, who died a century ago on September 17, 1851, studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, and in 1801, after graduating, was appointed reader in chemistry in the University of Oxford. He held the Aldrichian professorship of chemistry from 1803 until 1822, when, through the influence of his former teacher, Sir Astley Cooper, he became regius professor of medicine. He was also physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary and, though he had a large private practice, found time for chemical, geological and mineralogical pursuits. He published "The Outlines of Mineralogy" in 1809 and enriched the Ashmolean Museum's collection of geological specimens. A Fellow of the Royal Society, Kidd's contributions to the *Philosophical Transactions* included an "Essay on the Spontaneous Production of Salt-Petre" (1815) and a paper on "The Anatomy of the Mole-cricket" (1825). Elected keeper of the Radcliffe Library in 1834, he supervised the compilation of the section on medicine and natural history of its catalogue. His Bridgewater treatise "On the Adaptation of External Nature to the Physical Condition of Man" (1837) reached its sixth edition in 1852. Kidd's dislike of ostentation led him to abandon the wig, large hat and gold-headed cane, beloved of his medical colleagues at that time.

Nuffield Foundation Grant for Research at King's College, London

IT is announced by the University of London that the Court of the University has accepted a grant of £10,000 from the Nuffield Foundation for research in biophysics in King's College under the direction of Prof. J. T. Randall, Wheatstone professor of physics. The grant is available over a period of three years and makes provision for a number of fellowships. The present work of the Laboratory, already supported by the Medical Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation, is to be extended so as to develop the use of electronic devices in conjunction with ultra-violet and infra-red radiations in the study of cells and the structure of biologically important molecules.

Laboratoires: Bilingual Review of French Technology

A NEW quarterly review in French and English, *Laboratoires* (No. 1, April-June, 1951; pp. 56; Paris: Laboratoires, 11 rue Tronchet; 400 francs or 1500 francs a year), is devoted to French scientific instruments and technical developments. As Prof. G. Yvon explains in the foreword, the aim of the review is to present an accurate picture of research and technical activities in France to-day, and in this way to enable the world to appreciate more fully the work done by French men of science, technologists and industrialists. The first number contains seven articles by leading French scientific workers and technologists. The first, by L. de Broglie, is a discussion of the position of science in general culture, and this is followed by a description by L. Binet of two series of experiments which serve to illustrate the importance of the use of fish in the study of antitoxins. A condensed version of the first part, dealing with precision in metallurgy, of P. Chevenard's important address on January 15 to the members of the Société des Ingénieurs civils de France is given in the third article. "The Engineer and Technical Research" is discussed by M. Roy, a leading French aeronautical authority; and in an illustrated paper on French optics, by P. Fleury, director of the Institut d'Optique, Paris, the development of optical science and of the optical industry in France is outlined. Finally, the number concludes with two interesting articles: one on the influence of the electrical and electronic industries on the evolution of scientific research, by M. Ponte, director-general of the Compagnie Générale de T.S.F.; and the other on calculating machines and human thought, by V. Zelbstein, president of the French association of electronic engineers, in which he maintains that many of the ideas involved in cybernetics date back to Descartes, Pascal and