

who do not owe something to it. With numerous subsequent revisions it has reached its fourteenth edition and appears to be maintaining its place in spite of its now numerous competitors; it has been translated into several languages, notably Czech and Spanish.

In 1912 Yule went to Cambridge, where he became a Fellow of St. John's College and University reader in statistics. His academic career was interrupted by the First World War, and he spent the four years 1914-18 in the Contracts Department of the Board of Trade, his services being recognized by a C.B.E. Thereafter, scientific recognition followed by easy stages. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1921, and president of the Royal Statistical Society in 1923, having been awarded that Society's highest honour, the Guy Medal in Gold, in 1911. He was honoured by several foreign societies and in 1947 was made an honorary member of the International Institute of Statistics.

During the phase from 1912 until 1927, Udney Yule's work fell into two classes. In conjunction with Major Greenwood he laid the foundations of the study of accident distributions, a subject which nowadays has a much wider field of application than when Yule began on it. His interest in statistical relationship found expression in a paper of 1921 on time correlation and one in 1926 on 'nonsense correlations'. His work culminated in a famous paper in 1927 on sunspots, which forms the starting point of the modern theory of oscillatory time-series.

In 1931 Yule retired and, characteristically, took up flying as a hobby. He was very proud of obtaining a pilot's certificate *A* at the age of sixty; but unfortunately his heart gave serious trouble shortly afterwards, and the remaining twenty years of his life were spent in comparative seclusion at Cambridge, which he rarely left.

His main scientific work was now at an end; but the literary and philological interests of his family began to show themselves. Moved by doubts cast on the traditional attribution of the authorship of the "Imitatio Christi" to Thomas à Kempis, he was led to a statistical study of literary vocabulary, on which he published his last book in 1944. His strength then failed, and during the closing years he was able to accomplish very little. He died at the Evelyn Nursing Home at Cambridge on June 26, 1951, at the age of eighty.

Yule's work is characterized by its originality, its thoroughness and a wonderful insight into the problems which he studied. A great many of the basic ideas of statistical theory can be traced back to his papers, where they find expression with the modesty and simplicity of genius. He was one of the statistical giants of his age. In spite of some provocation he never embarked on controversy, and his objectivity towards his fellow statisticians is without blemish. In character he was kindly and sociable, with opinions soundly based, firmly held but moderately expounded—a thoroughly lovable man.

M. G. KENDALL

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. K. C. Bailey, registrar of the University of Dublin, and during 1935-47 professor of physical chemistry in the University, aged fifty-five.

Sir Eric Maclagan, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., during 1924-45 director and secretary of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, on September 14, aged seventy-two.

Prof. F. W. Oliver, F.R.S., emeritus professor of botany, University College, London, on September 14, aged eighty-seven.

NEWS and VIEWS

Higher Technological Education in Great Britain

THE statement of Government Policy for the Development of Higher Technological Education in Great Britain (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 3*d*. net) issued on September 20 sets forth the Government decisions on the report of the National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce, but gives little indication of real policy in either technical or technological education. The two are not clearly distinguished; but so far as the former is concerned, the policy would appear to be 'the mixture as before'. In regard to technological education, the chief feature is the rejection of the idea of a technological university, whether an entirely new institution or by the expansion of some existing institution. The cost of such a proposal is estimated at £6 millions, and its creation by either method is regarded as requiring too large a diversion of available resources. Instead, a policy of diversified expansion is to be pursued. The universities are to be encouraged to expand their existing departments in technology and to institute postgraduate courses in particular fields of technology, while the University Grants Committee is considering the possibility of expanding much more considerably at one or two places. On this side it will not be possible to pass judgment until the University Grants Committee

indicates its proposals for the next quinquennium; but the Statement intimates that the Government proposals for making improved financial assistance available for selected technical colleges and courses will be announced shortly.

According to the Statement, some sixty technical colleges in England and Wales and six in Scotland provide higher technological education; but until these further details are made public it cannot be judged whether the proposed policy will yield any effective return and not lead to waste of resources through excessive diffusion. The Government has accepted the dubious proposal to establish a College of Technologists—though the use of the title 'Royal' is temporarily to be withheld—with responsibilities limited to granting awards of associateship, etc., and for the approval of courses for this purpose. Until the details of the Government's own proposals for selected technical colleges and those of the University Grants Committee in regard to the universities are made known, the value of the proposals cannot be judged. The trend of the Statement indicates a desire to court the favour of the universities and of the local education authorities, rather than to deal imaginatively with the real issues and to ensure that existing resources are used to the best advantage, from the national, and not from any sectional, point of view.