

ness, and Mrs. Dakin's death last year, after a long illness which had made an unwonted strain on Dakin's small reserve of strength, proved too much for his frail constitution, and there has passed from our midst one whose attractive personality and charm will be greatly missed. He was a pioneer of biochemistry, and for half a century his work has profoundly affected thought and progress in this field. He worked on many subjects and brought adornment and distinction to them all.

PERCIVAL HARTLEY

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. F. T. Brooks, C.B.E., F.R.S., emeritus professor of botany in the University of Cambridge, on March 11, aged sixty-nine.

Lord Lindsay of Birker, principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, and formerly master of Balliol College, Oxford, on March 18, aged seventy-two.

Prof. N. V. Sidgwick, C.B.E., F.R.S., formerly professor of, and reader in, chemistry in the University of Oxford, on March 15, aged seventy-eight.

## NEWS and VIEWS

St. John's College, Cambridge:

Mr. J. M. Wordie, C.B.E.

MR. J. M. WORDIE, who has been appointed Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, in succession to the late Mr. E. A. Benians, took the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1913, specializing in geology, in which he won the Harkness Scholarship. Events were to prevent his following the normal career of a geologist, for in 1914 he sailed with Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition. Here he had time to begin his studies of sea-ice while the whole party lived for months on the floating pack-ice, after their ship had been crushed. Wordie was with the main party, living under an upturned boat for some weeks on a barren sub-Antarctic island, while his leader was making his memorable boat-journey to South Georgia for help. He returned to England just in time to see a little service in the First World War as an artillery officer. He then went back to Cambridge to take up what can best be described as an academic life with exciting interludes.

Becoming a Fellow of St. John's in 1921, and successively supervisor, tutor, senior tutor and president, he has been in close touch with undergraduates for thirty years. Almost at once he began that series of summer expeditions to the Arctic—six in all—by which he has exerted a lasting influence on polar exploration. Most of the young men in those parties under his leadership have gone farther with polar work and all have maintained an intense interest in it. Mr. Wordie's knowledge of polar history is nearly as comprehensive as his polar library. As an original member of the Colonial Office *Discovery* Committee, as chairman of the Committee of the Scott Polar Research Institute, and now as president of the Royal Geographical Society, he has been in constant touch with almost every aspect of scientific exploration. His wise and cautious counsel will, no doubt, continue in these fields.

### Television in Scotland

A FURTHER step in the carrying out of the B.B.C.'s plan for a nation-wide service of television (see *Nature*, 167, 617; 1951) was accomplished on March 14, when the fourth station in the network was formally opened at Edinburgh by Mr. James Stuart, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland. The new station is at Kirk o' Shotts, near Falkirk, on a site 900 ft. above sea-level about midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh. The 750-ft. mast, similar to those used at Birmingham and Holme Moss, brings the total height of the sound and vision aërials to more than 1,600 ft.; and this is an important factor in securing the greatest possible service area, particularly in hilly country such as

that lying to the north of the new station. The sound and vision transmitters operate on frequencies of 53.25 and 56.75 Mc./s. respectively (wave-lengths 5.63 and 5.3 m.).

As at Holme Moss, the Scottish station is being equipped with high-power transmitters for the main service, with medium-power transmitters to be held in reserve against breakdowns. As there is likely to be some delay in the completion of the high-power installation, it was decided to inaugurate the service with the medium-power transmitters, which were built to B.B.C. specification by Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd.; they form a completely separate installation and are housed in the annexe building. These medium-power transmitters are expected to provide a satisfactory television service over a considerable area of central Scotland, including Edinburgh and Glasgow; but reception will naturally be more liable to interference, particularly in fringe areas, than it will be when the high-power transmitters come into service later in the year. It is estimated that the new station will then enable between three and four million people to use the service—more than half the population of Scotland; with the other stations already in operation, television will be available to about three-quarters of the population in Great Britain.

The vision programme is conveyed to Kirk o' Shotts over the General Post Office distribution network, which consists of the 1-in. tube co-axial cable system from London to Birmingham, the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. coaxial cable from Birmingham to Manchester, and a radio relay link between Manchester and Kirk o' Shotts. This is the longest television relay system in Europe; and the fact that viewers in the London area were able to witness the inauguration ceremony in Edinburgh, as re-radiated by the Alexandra Palace station, was a testimony to its efficient operation. At this ceremony, Lord Tedder, vice-chairman of the B.B.C., introduced Mr. Stuart in the presence of Mr. James Miller, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and a distinguished gathering. More than one reference was made to the fact that the late Mr. J. L. Baird, the pioneer of British television, was born at Helensburgh, Dumbarton, about forty miles from the new station. In the area of the new station, reception of the opening ceremony and the evening's programmes was described as excellent.

### British Coal Utilization Research Association: First Coal Science Lecture

IN his presidential address to the British Coal Utilization Research Association last year, Sir Charles Ellis referred to the establishment by the Association of an annual Coal Science Lecture. It is now