

Dodgson was endowed with sound judgment, singleness of purpose and a capacity for mastering details as well as the broad aspects of the matters which required his attention. H. P. SHERWOOD

#### Dr. Poul Jespersen

THE death of Dr. Poul Jespersen, on December 20, 1951, has removed from the ranks of marine biologists one who shared with Dr. Johs. Schmidt in the pioneer investigations on the life-history of the eel. Born on March 18, 1891, at Naesbyhoved near Odense, Jespersen was a naturalist from his boyhood days. While still a student at the University of Copenhagen, he sailed in 1913 on the schooner *Margrethe* to search for the larvæ of the eel in the Sargasso Sea. Afterwards, he was to take part in many oceanographic voyages, including the two-year cruise of *Dana II* to the Atlantic and the Pacific, and her world circumnavigation during 1928-30. Jespersen published many works on the life-histories of fishes and the

importance of plankton as their food; he was also a copepod systematist. He succeeded Ove Paulsen as director of the plankton laboratory of the Danish Commission for Fisheries Research.

His special hobby since youth had been the study of birds, on which he published a number of papers, and in 1941 he became president of the Danish Ornithological Society. Just before his death, Jespersen had been appointed Secretary-General of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and his presence will be missed by many friends at the Council's meetings. His wife and daughter survive him. F. S. RUSSELL

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Maria Montessori, the well-known educationist, on May 6, aged eighty-one.

Mr. James L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., known for his "Check List of Birds of the World", aged sixty-two.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Birmingham : Sir Raymond Priestley

SIR RAYMOND PRIESTLEY retires on September 30 from the vice-chancellorship of the University of Birmingham, which he has held since 1938. His training as a geologist, his work in the Antarctic with the Shackleton and Scott expeditions, his long service as secretary of the Board of Research Studies at Cambridge and his period as vice-chancellor in Melbourne had given him wide experience of science and its organization, and so it was natural that the Faculty of Science in Birmingham should have skilful and sympathetic support from him; but the other Faculties have had it no less. Dr. Priestley, as he then was, set up his office in the old buildings in the centre of Birmingham, and it was his ambition to take the Faculties of Arts and Law from these buildings to join the rest of the University at Edgbaston. War and scarcities have prevented this; but many of his other ambitions have been fulfilled. The University has not only doubled its size: its internal government has become more democratic, new departments have been founded (genetics and electron physics are examples on the science side), and new links, such as the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-on-Avon and the Department of Engineering Production, have been made with the cultural and industrial life of the Midlands.

Sir Raymond has done much for individuals and non-academic organizations in the University; he has always kept in personal touch with students and has been rewarded by enterprising and conscientious work by the officers of the Guild of Undergraduates in successive years. Popular with all the staff, he has shown particular interest in the lower grades and has been a staunch champion of their interests. His educational work has by no means been confined to his own University; he took a large part, for example, in the founding of the University College of the West Indies, and visits to it have been his chief relaxation in recent years. At the request of the University Council, Sir Raymond has remained in office beyond

the normal age of retirement, and there will be general regret that he feels unable to continue still longer. He has been, by general consent, one of the outstanding vice-chancellors of his time.

### Chemistry at University College, London :

Prof. H. Terrey

MANY friends and students of Mr. Henry Terrey, reader in chemistry at University College, London, since 1937, will have heard with pleasure of his elevation to a chair at that College as from January 1, 1952. He graduated B.Sc. in 1912 and in the same year was appointed student demonstrator in the Chemistry Department, where he has maintained an unbroken service, except for a short period in 1914. As well as having responsibility there for many years for most of the teaching of inorganic chemistry to senior students, he is also lecturer in the chemistry of painters' materials in the Bartlett School of Architecture and has been lecturer in dental metallurgy in University College Hospital Dental School. During the First World War he combined academic duties with research work for the Admiralty. Of researches later carried out with his students the first was an early example of the use of radioactive indicators, in determinations of the hydration of salts. Various X-ray spectrometric studies have been made, for example, of alloys, of silver subfluoride, of indium dichloride and of the coagulation of gold sols. In an examination of the platinum-platinichloride electrode a new and very constant type of chlorine electrode was evolved. Investigations in the chemistry of scandium, samarium and germanium are included among other widely spread work. Interest in history is fruitfully evinced in a paper on Edward Turner, the first professor of chemistry at University College. Prof. Terrey served on the Council of the Chemical Society during 1928-31. He is chairman of the Board of Examiners for the Internal B.Sc. in chemistry of the University of London, and chairman of a sub-committee on crystallography drawn from the Boards of Chemistry and Physics of the University.