

a number of scientific assemblies and presided at several of them. He was the first president of the International Association of Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity. C. E. Guillaume, of France, is said to have one day announced with mock seriousness that the second moon was newly born; his explanation to rather puzzled hearers was this: "It is Prof. Tanakadate. He makes a revolution around the world every year".

Prof. Tanakadate was liked by everybody who had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with him, and admired for his unfading love of science as well as for his logical and brilliant way of thinking, inter-

mixed occasionally with a good sense of humour. Many old friends all over the world will honour his memory.

CHUJI TSUBOI

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. W. E. Gye, F.R.S., lately director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, on October 15, aged sixty-eight.

Sir Frederick Keeble, C.B.E., F.R.S., formerly Sheradian professor of botany in the University of Oxford, on October 19, aged eighty-two.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Sir William Ramsay and University College, London

REFERENCE has already been made (see *Nature*, October 4, p. 554) to the appeal for funds which has been made on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Sir William Ramsay. The appeal was well and truly launched at a Ramsay Memorial Dinner held at University College, London, on October 15, at which H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh was guest of honour and proposed the toast "to the immortal memory of Sir William Ramsay". He took as his theme the importance of fundamental research and its significance for industrial progress, quoting from his experience of recent work going on in State research institutions, and using Sir William Ramsay's discovery of the rare gases as an example of the manifold and unsuspected uses which may be made in everyday life and industry of the results of fundamental research. The reply to the toast was made by Dr. B. Ifor Evans, provost of University College, who outlined the purpose of the appeal, and stated that £57,000 has already been promised towards the £100,000 which it is hoped to raise. During the dinner, it was announced that Lady Tidy (a daughter of Sir William Ramsay) and Prof. Morris Travers—both of whom, with other associates of Ramsay, were present—had decided to present to the College the collection of Ramsay letters, papers and other materials which Prof. Travers has been accumulating over a long period. Incidentally, it may be added that Prof. Travers has prepared a fascinating account of Ramsay's life and work which has been issued by the College in connexion with the centenary appeal.

The appeal is being issued jointly by the University College Committee and the Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trustees. After Ramsay's death in 1916, funds were raised by public subscription and were devoted partly to building a chemical engineering laboratory in the College and partly for the endowment of Ramsay Memorial General Fellowships to enable advanced students of chemistry from any part of the world to carry out research at any approved centre in the United Kingdom. Fellows from overseas are supported by funds raised in the country of their origin, and in this way Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States have sent distinguished young students to Great Britain. Funds subscribed in Britain were mainly devoted to British students, and the capital fund available for that purpose is now inadequate to maintain the normal award of one fellowship of two-years tenure every year. It is therefore proposed to devote £25,000 from the £100,000 which the appeal is hoped to produce

to augment the Fellowship Trust General Fund, so that the normal number of British fellowships may be restored. With the remaining £75,000 it is hoped to make a substantial addition to the laboratory accommodation at University College and to provide additional equipment. When Ramsay went to the College, the facilities for research were meagre. By his personal exertions he supplemented what was available to him in the College, until he led a famous school of research. He would surely have approved the purpose of this centenary appeal to industry and others to augment the resources of the College, so badly damaged during the Second World War, and to provide more funds for the maintenance of that world-fellowship of distinguished chemists who are proud to acknowledge their association with the Ramsay Memorial Trust.

### The Royal Sanitary Institute: Dr. J. W. Dudley Robinson

At a luncheon given in his honour on October 14, Dr. J. W. Dudley Robinson, who will be retiring at the end of this year, was presented with an inscribed silver rose-bowl and a cheque on behalf of the Fellows, Members and Associates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as a token of their appreciation of his valued service as secretary of the Institute since 1928. Dr. Robinson has also been secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board since 1928 and of the National Nursery Examination Board since its formation in 1945. Since he went to the Institute from the secretaryship of the Institution of Municipal Engineers, he has been responsible for much of the former's successful development. In addition to organizing the annual health congresses of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which are attended by upwards of two thousand delegates, he has also arranged a number of special conferences, notably on the Midwives Act in 1936, and on the administration of the Milk (Special Designations) Order in the same year. During his service with the Royal Sanitary Institute, Dr. Robinson has been responsible for its examination system under which some sixty-eight thousand candidates have been examined. In the same period, the membership of the Institute has increased from 4,700 to well over 9,500. In 1950 he was appointed an officer of the Ordre de la Santé Publique by the President of the French Republic.

### New Fellowships in Microbiological Biochemistry at Oxford

THE University of Oxford has been able to establish three research fellowships in microbiological bio-