March 9, 1932, and September 20, 1939 ($M = 6\frac{1}{2}$). From a focus with epicentre at lat. 38° N., long. 20° E., an earthquake occurred on February 14, 1943, and from a focus with epicentre at lat. $38\frac{1}{2}$° N., long. $20\frac{1}{2}$° E. an earthquake occurred on January 7, 1943 ($M = 5\frac{1}{2}$); the last-named had a depth of focus of 100 km., the others being from somewhat more shallow foci. ERNEST TILLOTSON

OBITUARY

Prof. R. von Mises

PROF. VON MISES, who died on July 14, had a world-wide reputation among applied mathematicians and aerodynamicists. He was born in Austria on April 19, 1883, and was educated in Vienna, where he obtained his doctorate in 1907. After holding the posts of lecturer, extraordinary professor and professor at Bruenn, Strassburg and Dresden respectively, he was appointed professor of applied mathematics and director of the Institute for Applied Mathematics at the University of Berlin in 1920. He held this post until 1933, when he left Germany to occupy a similar position at Istanbul during 1933–39. He then migrated to Harvard University, where he was first a lecturer and associate professor during 1939–43 and afterwards Gordon MacKay professor of aerodynamics and applied mathematics during 1943–53.

His scientific work covered the whole of mechanics, including elasticity, as well as the theory of probability and statistics, and the philosophy of science. But he will be remembered especially for his researches in theoretical and applied fluid mechanics. To this subject he made numerous contributions, including the theory of aerofoil design and the theory of boundary layer flow.

He had a great influence on the development of mechanics. He inaugurated the famous *ZAMM* (*Zeitschrift für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik*) and edited it from 1920 until 1933. In the United States he was editor of "Advances in Applied Mechanics" during 1948–53. His publications number some 142 papers and books on technical hydromechanics, the theory of flight, differential and integral equations of mechanics and physics, the theory of probability, and some writings on positivism.

He had also a great love for literature and possessed a famous collection of books dealing with the writings of Rainer Maria Rilke, to whose work he himself devoted seven articles.

A memorial volume to celebrate his seventieth birthday is in preparation. He leaves a widow, Dr. Hilda von Mises, herself a well-known mathematician. His gracious and lovable personality will be greatly missed. G. TEMPLE

NEWS and VIEWS

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand

MR. L. W. TILLER AND MR. I. D. DICK have been appointed assistant secretaries to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand. Mr. Tiller will be responsible for the agriculture and biology group of branches of the Department, and Mr. Dick for those of physics and geology.

Mr. L. W. Tiller

MR. L. W. TILLER was born in Nelson and attended Nelson College. He graduated B.Sc. from Victoria University College in 1921, and in 1922 joined the staff of the Cawthron Institute, where he was engaged in agricultural chemistry and fruit nutritional and cold-storage investigations. From there he went to the Appleby Research Orchard of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in charge of more extensive fruit-tree manurial and storage work. In 1936, he was sent to England in charge of the recording of a large experimental consignment of fruit. While in England he studied at East Malling and Long Ashton Research Stations, and at the Cambridge Low Temperature Research Station. On return to New Zealand, Mr. Tiller was appointed fruit research officer of the Department. During the War he and another officer of the Department initiated experiments on vegetable dehydration and later he co-ordinated the work on full-scale commercial production. He also collaborated with the Army and Royal Air Force in producing special combat rations for all three branches of the Armed Services. In 1947 he was appointed director of food and fruit research, one of his activities being collaboration with British research workers in making temperature surveys on new refrigerated ships. Since 1948 he has been deputy assistant secretary (agriculture and biology). In this capacity he has been closely associated with the sections of the Department investigating fruit, tobacco, hop and entomology problems and plant diseases.

Mr. I. D. Dick

MR. I. D. DICK was born at Napier, and graduated in mathematics in 1939. He was appointed a mathematician to the Department to work on problems in mathematical statistics, which were becoming increasingly important in agricultural research. In 1941 he was transferred to the Radio Development Laboratory (established during the War as a separate unit of the Department) to work on the design and development of aerial systems for radar equipment. He left the Laboratory early in 1944 to undertake operational research in Australia as a serving officer in the New Zealand army. In 1945 he went to the Middle East and Italy, serving as a gunner in the artillery. Mr. Dick rejoined the Department in 1946, and was appointed officer in charge of the Biometrics Section. With the extension of mathematical work, this Section became the Applied Mathematics Laboratory in 1949, with Mr. Dick as director.

Technological Education in Great Britain

REPLYING for the Government in an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on July 23, regarding the provision of courses in technology at technical colleges for students living outside the boundary of the local authority maintaining the college, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, said that the principle of