were gradually given up, but he did not rest much until near the end of his long life.

Fritsch's publications will remain standard works for some time to come. He himself will be missed by many as a strong supporter of order, prudence and loyalty.

E. G. Pringsheim

The botanical world, and more especially the phycological section of it, has suffered grievous loss in the passing of Prof. Fritsch. Few men have attained the degree of eminence to which, despite physical frailty, his intellectual power, human wisdom and qualities of leadership raised him.

His primary interest was in the freshwater algae, in the study of which he made notable contributions to knowledge; but his interests were wide, and in the related field of marine phycology, his encyclopædic knowledge and sound judgment made him one to whom research workers in Great Britain and overseas turned inevitably for opinion and guidance. Help was always given freely and generously. He had that faculty of detached consideration of other people's problems that is not only invaluable but is also heart-warming and stimulating.

Prof. Fritsch's work, whether designed for the needs of elementary students or research workers, was always characterized by meticulous accuracy and a wealth of detailed information. The two volumes, "The Structure and Reproduction of the Algae", must remain as classic for all time; the completeness of the bibliography would alone ensure their permanent value, and that, coupled with the breadth and precision of the text, establishes the volumes as a *vade mecum* for all phycologists.

Though valuable scientific contributions, remarkable both in quantity and quality, earned for Prof. Fritsch both respect and admiration, his delightful human qualities also drew forth affection. It was a privilege to be associated with him for more than thirty-five years, and to have received from him an early training in university examining, in which his breadth of scholarship, fair-mindedness—especially to those less gifted than himself in graceful expression—provided an example to be remembered and followed.

Prof. Fritsch found great relaxation in music, and many of his friends will cherish memories of delightful week-ends at his home in Surrey where he and Mrs. Fritsch dispensed gracious hospitality. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Prof. Fritsch moved to Cambridge, where his home became again a social centre and focal point for botanists, from Great Britain and overseas. He faced the problems of war, as indeed he faced all other difficulties, with calmness, merely taking every possible precaution to safeguard scientific material and then going on quietly with his work, adding still further to scientific knowledge. It is regrettable that he himself will not see the publication of his current work on the calcareous algae.

Those who were privileged to be admitted to the friendship of Prof. Fritsch will be glad to express personal gratitude for unstinted and generous encouragement and to join with vast numbers of those who knew him in extending their sympathy to Mrs. Fritsch and her son. She must surely find some measure of comfort and pride in the knowledge of the sincere esteem and affection in which her husband was held by scientists all over the world.

Margery Knight
Lily Newton

Dr. Malcolm Burr

Dr. Malcolm Burr, whose death at the age of seventy-six, due to an accident, occurred on July 13 in Istanbul, was a most colourful figure. A mining engineer by training, he took part in the development of the Kent coalfield at the beginning of this century, prospected for coal in Angola and visited the Lena goldfields and manganese mines in the Caucasus between the two World Wars, not to mention many other professional tasks. His main scientific interest in life, however, was entomology, and even as a schoolboy he specialized in Orthoptera and Dermaptera. When only twenty years old, he visited Vienna and, under the stimulus of Dr. Brunner von Wattenwyl, produced a revision of the genus *Acrida*. A long series of articles on the systematics of other Orthoptera followed, as well as a monograph of the family Eumasticidae, the first of this group. His principal contribution was to the study of the Dermaptera, which he was the first to classify on the basis of the structure of the copulatory organs, and on which he published a classical revision in Wytsman's "Genera Insectorum", as well as a volume in the "Fauna of British India", apart from very numerous journal papers. Dr. Burr's valuable collection of world Dermaptera, containing many type-specimens, has been presented by him to the British Museum and his rich collection of European Orthoptera, including many collected by himself, to the Hope Museum, University of Oxford.

Financial misfortunes and a restless character made it impossible for Burr to settle down, and in his old age he became a journalist, author of delightful travel and natural history books and finally professor of English at Istanbul. One of his most remarkable abilities was the gift of learning languages—he spoke fluently all the European ones, including several Slavonic. His last letter to me, dated July 2, 1954, full of entomological inquiries, was written in a vivid, if not strictly grammatical, Russian, a language which he never attempted to learn, but merely 'picked up' during his visits to Russia more than thirty years ago and never forgot.

The Royal Entomological Society of London has lost in Dr. Burr one of its oldest Fellows, elected in 1896. Apart from his many publications, he rendered an important service to entomology by having been one of the active group which founded the International Entomological Congresses and the honorary secretary of their permanent executive committee until 1920.

B. P. Uvarov

Dr. R. W. Pocock

Dr. Roy Woodhouse Pocock, formerly a district geologist of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and a member of its staff for thirty-six years, died suddenly on June 22, while on holiday in Brussels.

Pocock was born in 1887 and, after leaving school, he became an assistant in the Geological Department of the British Museum (Natural History), in the meanwhile working for an honours B.Sc. degree at evening classes at Birkbeck College, London. During this time he began an investigation of the Silurian inlier of Woolhope, Herefordshire, and discovered there a thin limestone largely composed of the remains of the crinoid *Petalocrinus*, previously known only from the Niagara Limestone of North America and the Silurian beds of Gotland. He presented specimens from Woolhope to the British Museum

(Natural History) in 1911; but his work on the "*Petalocrinus* Limestone" was not published until 1930, in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*.

Pocock was appointed to the Geological Survey in 1912 and for about two years was assigned to work in Hertfordshire. During the First World War he was one of three members of the Geological Survey staff selected to go to the Eastern Mediterranean to advise on problems of water supply for the Army. On his return to England he received a commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

After the First World War, until his promotion to be district geologist in 1937, Pocock took part in the surveying of six one-inch sheets covering areas in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, and was principal or part author of the corresponding memoirs. His work in the western part of the Coalbrookdale Coalfield led to his contributing to the "Summary of Progress of the Geological Survey" for 1925 a paper on "The Basalt of Little Wenlock", in which he demonstrated the rock to be a lava of Lower Carboniferous age. Pocock extended his investigations to basalts among Upper Carboniferous sediments in the Midlands and, in a paper published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* in 1931, concluded that all of them are of Carboniferous age and most of them of extrusive origin. The latter contention has not in all cases met with general acceptance. For his work on "The Age of the Midland Basalts", his *Petalocrinus* paper and other writings on the geology of the Welsh Borderland, Pocock was in 1932 granted the D.Sc. degree of the University of London (not an 'honorary' degree as has been stated elsewhere). His official work in Shropshire resulted also in his collaborating with E. S. Cobbold in a paper on "The Cambrian Area of Rushton, Shropshire", published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* in 1934.

On his promotion to be district geologist, Pocock took charge of the Bristol and South Wales District, and himself carried out mapping of rocks of Silurian and Old Red Sandstone age in the Chepstow Sheet. He retired from the Geological Survey in 1948.

Pocock was awarded the Lyell Fund of the Geological Society in 1932. He served on that Society's Council during 1937–42 and was a vice-president in 1941 and 1942. He was treasurer of the Geologists' Association during 1950–52.

T. H. WHITEHEAD

NEWS and VIEWS

Mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology: Prof. H. Levy

PROF. H. LEVY joined the staff of the Mathematics Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in 1920 from the Aerodynamics Division of the National Physical Laboratory. He was appointed professor in 1923, succeeded Prof. S. Chapman as head of the Department in 1946, and was also dean of the Royal College of Science from 1946 until 1952; he is due to retire this year after thirty-four years continuous service in South Kensington. In that time he has achieved much distinction; academically he has been the inspiration of a gradual and forceful revolution in the content and quality of the mathematics instruction and research at the College. He has never allowed himself to rest contented with his achievements, and continues still to work to keep the Department abreast of the rapidly changing demands of present-day science and technology. In the College he has been well known to generations of students in all departments. With an unfailing sense of humour, and a human sympathy, he is one of the most approachable of men and is never too busy to talk with anyone who desires his help. He has preserved an independence of outlook and possesses a remarkable facility of spontaneous and sensible expression which, when he leaves, will be missed by his colleagues on many boards and committees. For the time being, however, they are fortunate in that Prof. Levy has agreed to delay his retirement for six months.

Geography at Edinburgh: Dr. J. W. Watson

DR. JAMES WREFORD WATSON, chief geographer of Canada, has been appointed to the chair of geography in the University of Edinburgh in succession to the late Prof. A. G. Ogilvie. Born of missionary parents in China in 1915, Dr. Watson spent his early years in the Far East, but went to Edinburgh at the age of twelve to be educated at George Watson's College and the University, where he graduated with first-class honours in geography in 1936. After two years as lecturer at the University of Sheffield, he was invited to introduce the teaching of geography to McMaster University, Ontario, first as lecturer and later as professor (1945–51). During this period he took his Ph.D. at Toronto and was for a time visiting professor at the University of Florida. In 1949—being 'lent' for a time from McMaster—he was appointed the first chief geographer of Canada and director of the Geographical Branch of the Federal Government. In this capacity he has initiated and organized a great variety of geographical surveys, many of them in the Canadian Arctic. He has also been responsible for compiling and editing the new "National Atlas of Canada", to be published in 1955. Besides extensive travel in North America, he has a first-hand knowledge of many parts of South America, Greenland and several European countries. Although so much of his working life has been spent in administration and travel, and in the supervision of the researches of others, Dr. Watson has found time for a good deal of personal research, recorded in twenty-five papers, some of which are substantial studies in sociological, economic and historical geography, marked throughout by originality of approach and method and by clarity of expression and illustration. Early this year he received an Award of Merit from the Association of American Geographers for his "distinguished services in the establishment of a geographical office in the Canadian Government and for original contributions to the historical geography of settlement".

Chemicals in Food

AT the eighth annual general meeting of the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association, held on June 3, Sir Frank Engledow, in his presidential address, surveyed the problem of chemicals in food against the background of the fourth annual report