(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