

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft. Both his children by his first wife (who died shortly after the War) had to emigrate as 'half-Aryan': his son Victor, also distinguished as a physicist, to the United States, and his daughter, married to the physicist Dr. Rathgeber, to Australia. After the War, Regener became a senator and vice-president of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.

Regener possessed exceptional personal charm and a wide liberal culture. He was both a good violinist and a keen yachtsman. His death means the loss to German science of a creative experimental physicist and one who, having weathered the devastation of the Hitler regime and of the War, afterwards did much to help to rebuild its great tradition.

P. M. S. BLACKETT

NEWS and VIEWS

Entomology at Rothamsted :

Dr. C. B. Williams, F.R.S.

DR. C. B. WILLIAMS, who has been head of the Department of Entomology of Rothamsted Experimental Station since 1932, retires on June 30. From Birkenhead School he went to Cambridge, where he took a science degree and the diploma in agriculture, and then to the John Innes Horticultural Institution, where he was one of Bateson's first research students. Between 1916 and 1927 he studied pests of sugarcane in the West Indies, and then pests of cotton in Egypt, where he was sub-director and then director of the Entomological Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1927 he was appointed entomologist at the Amani Research Station in East Africa, where his work on locusts enhanced his already great interest in the migration of insects—a subject that has since continued to fascinate him and in which he has become one of the leading authorities. During 1929–32 he was Steven lecturer in agricultural and forest zoology in the University of Edinburgh, after which he was a visiting professor in the University of Minnesota before going to Rothamsted. In addition to continuing his studies on insect migration, at Rothamsted he has been concerned with problems of field ecology and the relation between weather and the activity of insects. He has been a pioneer in applying statistical methods to biology and has contributed much to knowledge on intra-generic competition and on the relative abundance of different species in wild populations of many kinds of organisms. Dr. Williams has been president of the Royal Entomological Society, the British Ecological Society and the Association of Applied Biologists. Aided by a grant from the Agricultural Research Council, he will continue his work on quantitative ecology at Kincaig, Inverness-shire.

Dr. Kenneth Mellanby, C.B.E.

DR. KENNETH MELLANBY, who is to succeed Dr. C. B. Williams, has until recently been principal of the University College, Ibadan. After taking the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge, he did his first research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, starting to study insects and climate, a subject that has remained his main interest. In 1934 he was awarded the Wandsworth Fellowship and for two years worked on the tsetse fly in East Africa. Then, as the Sorby Research Fellow of the Royal Society, he went to the University of Sheffield, where he was appointed honorary lecturer in zoology. Here, in addition to studying the effects of environment on the behaviour of various insects, early in the War he undertook work on head lice and scabies. In 1943, as a major in the R.A.M.C., he conducted a casualty survey among prisoners-of-war in North Africa, and in 1944, as deputy field director of the

Medical Research Council Scrub Typhus Commission, he went to South-East Asia, where he was particularly concerned with organizing preventive measures against the disease. On his return to the United Kingdom, he was appointed reader at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a post he relinquished in 1947 to become the first principal of the new University College, Ibadan, where he also held the post of professor of parasitology. Since 1953 he has again been working at the London School of Hygiene, studying the manner in which insects can be acclimatized to withstand extremes of temperature.

Geology in the British Museum (Natural History) : Mr. W. N. Edwards

MR. W. N. EDWARDS, who has been keeper of geology at the British Museum (Natural History) since 1938, is to retire on June 30. From the Cambridge County School he went to Christ's College, Cambridge, and was appointed to the Museum staff in 1913 as a palaeobotanist. He has travelled widely and collected fossil plants in many parts, and his published papers cover a varied range of palaeobotanical subjects. In the Department of Geology he has been particularly active in forwarding the publication not only of monographs and scientific papers but also of popular handbooks. He was a secretary during 1939–44 of the Geological Society, and recently he received the Lyell Medal of the Society. He is president this year of Section C (Geology) of the British Association.

Dr. E. I. White

THE Principal Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Dr. Errol Ivor White to succeed Mr. Edwards as keeper of the Department of Geology. Dr. White has been deputy keeper of the Department since 1938. Educated at Highgate School and King's College, London, he entered the British Museum (Natural History) in 1922, when he was given charge of the fossil fishes under the late Sir Arthur Smith Woodward. He has since specialized on the ostracoderms, and has published numerous papers on primitive vertebrates. He has collected fossils extensively in the Anglo-Welsh basin, and has also taken part in expeditions to Madagascar and Spitsbergen.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

IT is announced that the Smithsonian Institution and Harvard University will in future co-ordinate their programmes of astrophysical research. In pursuance of this policy, the headquarters of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory will move to Cambridge, Mass., though some work will continue in the laboratories and workshops in Washington.