also wrote of ancient bronze implements (see *Nature*, **116**, 786 ; 1925).

Prof. Bannister was a member of many technical institutions and societies—to which he had made numerous contributions—such as the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, the Iron and Steel Institute, the Institute of Metals (of which he was an original member), the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Liverpool Engineering Society. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Of his many awards, his early successes at the School of Mines have already been mentioned. The Edward Matthey Prize for research followed in 1902, and in 1903 he became a Carnegie Scholar of the Iron and Steel Institute, while in 1912 he was awarded the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa Gold Medal by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, and in 1919 the Bessemer Premium of the Society of Engineers.

Those of us who had enjoyed his friendship from the very early days at South Kensington have always had happy memories of his ever-cheerful outlook and genial personality and a great admiration for his work, both as a teacher and as a practitioner. In these spheres his approach was always characterized by a quickness off the mark and by a directness which left no doubt that he had clearly grasped the essentials of any problem or situation with which he might be faced. His judgments were both shrewd and sure.

Prof. Bannister is survived by his widow, a daughter and a son. S. W. Smith

NEWS and VIEWS

Physical Chemistry at King's College, London : Sir Eric Rideal, M.B.E., F.R.S.

Sir Eric Rideal retires at the end of the present session from the chair of chemistry in the University of London which he holds at King's College. He succeeded the late Prof. A. J. Allmand in 1950. During his tenure of office, Sir Eric has materially strengthened the interests of physical chemistry at King's College, particularly at the postgraduate level. His wisdom and wide experience have also been drawn upon in matters beyond chemistry, and although his period in office has been short he has nevertheless brought great benefit and distinction to the College in many ways. He will leave behind many friends. His earlier associations with the University of Cambridge and later with the Royal Institution, as well as his scientific contributions to colloid science and surface chemistry, are well known. His retirement removes from the sphere of academic chemistry one whose scientific work has attained international recognition. The subject of colloid science which he did so much to create and develop will be carried on very largely by the great number of physical chemists throughout the world who had the privilege of working under his direction and inspiration. During the past five years, Sir Eric has also held numerous other offices, including those of president of the Chemical Society and chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development of the Ministry of Supply.

Prof. D. W. G. Style

Dr. D. W. G. Style, who has been appointed to succeed Sir Eric Rideal, was educated at Epsom College and King's College, London. He worked under the late Prof. A. J. Allmand and afterwards under Prof. M. Polanyi at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut, Berlin. Since that time, Dr. Style has been at King's College, London, where he now holds a readership. He has made notable contributions to physical chemistry in the fields of photochemistry and spectroscopy. During the Second World War, Dr. Style was seconded for work with the Ministry of Supply.

Metallurgy at Sheffield : Prof. R. W. K. Honeycombe

It was recently decided that the Department of Metallurgy and the postgraduate school in physical metallurgy in the University of Sheffield should be merged under Prof. A. G. Quarrell, who was given the title of professor of metallurgy. Dr. R. W. K. Honeycombe, senior lecturer in physical metallurgy, has now been appointed professor of physical metallurgy. An Australian by birth, Prof. Honeycombe was educated at Geelong College and the University of Melbourne. As a research student under the direction of Dr. J. Neil Greenwood, he studied the metallurgy of hard alloys of the cemented carbide type. During 1942–47 he was a research officer in the Lubricants and Bearings Section, now the Division of Tribo-Physics, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, and did metallurgical work under the general direction of Dr. F. P. Bowden. Much of this work was aimed at the solution of Service problems arising from the War. However, some research of a more fundamental character was done in collaboration with Dr. W. Boas, including a study of the thermal fatigue of metals and alloys which show anisotropy of thermal expansion. In 1947 Dr. Honeycombe left Australia to take up an I.C.I. fellowship with Dr. E. Orowan's metal physics group in the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, and two years later he was awarded the Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Research Fellowship. While at Cambridge, Dr. Honeycombe made a detailed study of the development of deformation bands formed during the plastic deformation of metal crystals, and afterwards, in collaboration with Dr. A. F. Brown, did electron microscope work which led to the discovery of the phenomenon of micro-slip. Since his appointment in 1951 to Sheffield, Dr. Honeycombe has had considerable teaching responsibilities in the recently established postgraduate school of physical metallurgy. He has, nevertheless, continued his research on deformation, paying particular attention to the deformation of crystals of solid-solution and age-hardening alloys. He is also studying the properties of thorium and its alloys, and the precipitation of carbides in ferritic steels.

The Coblentz Society : a New Society for Infra-Red Spectroscopy

A new society, the Coblentz Society, has been formed in the United States with the object of furthering work in all the aspects of infra-red spectroscopy and of providing a communication centre and forum for the thousands of scientists, research workers