twenties, later became distinguished workers in special and general relativity. But throughout the discussion Einstein remained smilingly unperturbed and said he was prepared to stand or fall by the results of an empirical examination of his predictions. He had not very long to wait, for when I translated his popular work on "Relativity" in 1920, I suggested to him that he might like to include an appendix on the experimental confirmation of the theory and he immediately agreed, there being already much experimental evidence available in his support.

Having finished one piece of work, he rarely returned to it, preferring to investigate fresh fields. Once the original proofs of his popular book were sent to press, I think it unlikely that he ever re-read the text, contenting himself with adding new appendixes, the last of which appeared two years ago. Thus it was that a statement in the early editions, about the impossibility of testing empirically his mass-energy relation, remained uncorrected until two years ago, when, during proof-reading, I noted the oversight and was able to add a supplementary note to the relevant chapter.

His world-wide but unsought fame undoubtedly reached its zenith with the confirmation of his predicted gravitational deflexion of light rays by Eddington and others in 1919. This news caught the popular imagination and was a pleasant change from news of war. His first comments in Britain on the results of the solar eclipse expeditions were published at the request of *The Times*, rather than in a recognized scientific journal. Referring to this in a letter to me, he wrote: "It cannot do any harm, for, thank God, the solar eclipse and the theory of relativity have nothing in common with politics. In this work, English men of science have behaved splendidly throughout, and to my delight your letter shows me that the feelings of English colleagues have not been influenced as much by the war as one might have feared. Within the last few days I have had also from Eddington a very charming letter, about which I have been extremely pleased. I should like to utilize the favourable circumstances to contribute as much as possible towards the reconciliation of German and English colleagues". (My translation.)

I had been a civilian prisoner in Vienna throughout the First World War, but was allowed to continue my scientific work unhindered. Referring to this, Einstein wrote: "Your two letters have given me great pleasure and particularly the news that our Viennese colleagues treated you in such a friendly manner during the war". My next meeting with him was immediately after his lecture on relativity at the University of Manchester in 1921, when I had the pleasure of driving with Prof. and Mrs. Einstein and Dr. Erwin Freundlich in the environs of the city.

ROBERT W. LAWSON

NEWS and VIEWS

Linnean Gold Medal : Sir John Graham Kerr, F.R.S.

THE award of the Linnean Gold Medal on May 24 to Sir John Graham Kerr has given great pleasure to a wide circle of colleagues and former students who have had the benefit of his stimulating and original personality, and also to a much wider circle of naturalists throughout the world. Sir John is one of the last of the great zoologists of the beginning of this century, who seemed to possess an almost encyclopædic general knowledge of the subject, as well as being a specialist in one or more branches. He started his career as a naturalist in the Linnean and Darwinian tradition, by joining an expedition to the Pilcomayo region of the Gran Chaco, Paraguay, during 1889–91. The years following this expedition were spent at Cambridge, where the School of Zoology then occupied an unrivalled position as a centre for the study of comparative morphology and embryology. He joined Christ's College as a scholar and after taking his degree carried out a second expedition to the Gran Chaco—during 1896–97—to study the little-known lung-fish, *Lepidosiren*. The account of these two famous expeditions—"A Naturalist in the Gran Chaco"—was only published in 1950 and has been described as the best book about South America since Charles Darwin's "Voyage of the Beagle". He was appointed regius professor of natural history in the University of Glasgow in 1902, when the chair still included geology—which, however, became distinct in the following year. He held the chair for thirty-three years and built up a great Department of Zoology and a very fine museum in which the exhibits were beautifully displayed on black backgrounds with indirect lighting. During these years, apart from his numerous publications and text-books, he took an active part in public affairs and became chairman of the Glasgow Unionist Association and afterwards represented the Scottish Universities as M.P., 1935–50. He originated and communicated to the Admiralty in September 1914 the scheme for the protective coloration of ships by counter shading and strongly contrasting patches ('dazzle') based on his observations in the field.

The president of the Linnean Society, Lieut.-Colonel Seymour Sewell, in presenting the Medal, recalled that when he entered Christ's College, Cambridge, fifty-six years ago, Sir John was then a Fellow of the College and demonstrator in the Department of Animal Morphology, and he also referred briefly to the many distinctions of "the doyen of British zoologists". The Medal was received on behalf of his father by Mr. Ronald Graham Kerr, and the meeting expressed its deep sympathy with Sir John in his blindness, which prevented his attendance, and also their warm affection for him, both as an eminent scientist and Fellow of the Society, and a personal friend of long standing.

Applied Geophysics at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London : Prof. J. McG. Bruckshaw

As part of the expansion programme of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, an entirely new Department of Applied Geophysics has been established in an extension of the Royal School of Mines, where it will function in appropriate juxtaposition to the Departments of Geology and of Applied Geochemistry. In charge of the new Department will be the first occupant of the recently instituted chair of applied geophysics, Prof. J. McG. Bruckshaw, who has been largely responsible for instruction and research in geophysics within the