

and a charm of manner and was a devout churchman. In each of the World Wars he served in the Army, in the first in the infantry and in the second in the R.A.S.C., from which he was seconded to the Historical Section (Military) War Cabinet Offices, for preparatory work on the official history of the War.

The archaeological world has lost a mature and industrious scholar and we in the National Museum of Wales mourn the loss of a distinguished colleague and a friend. The deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, his sons and his mother.

D. DILWYN JOHN

#### Mr. P. Y. Millns

PETER YORKE MILLNS, a brilliant research student of astronomy in the University of Manchester, lost his life on the Aletsch Glacier near the summit of the Jungfrau in the Swiss Alps on December 19.

Peter Millns, who was twenty-two years of age, graduated in physics in the University of Manchester with first-class honours in June 1954. He then joined the Department of Astronomy of the University to do research in nebular photography with high-speed Schmidt cameras in monochromatic light. With the help of Dr. A. Burawoy, of the College of Technology, Manchester, Millns developed in a short time an important application of dye filters for astronomical photography, and his first contribution to this subject was presented at the Manchester symposium on astronomical optics held last April. Quest for transparent skies led him repeatedly to Europe's highest observatory at Sphinx, Jungfraujoch (3,576 m.), and there he met his untimely end in a mountaineering accident during leisure-time. The accident has deprived science and the University of Manchester of a brilliant young scientist and a well-liked colleague.

ZDENĚK KOPAL

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Archæology of the Roman Empire at Oxford: Prof. I. A. Richmond, F.B.A.

NEXT October there will come into existence in the University of Oxford a chair in the archaeology of the Roman Empire, and Prof. I. A. Richmond, himself an Oxford graduate, has accepted an invitation to be its first occupant. Prof. Richmond, who is fifty-three, is at present professor of Roman-British history and archaeology at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he has been for the past twenty years. He is a leading authority on Roman Britain, and has excavated in many widely separated places in England and Scotland. Most recently he has been engaged with Dr. J. K. St. Joseph at Inchtuthil in work not yet finished which will give a complete picture of an unaltered Flavian legionary fortress, the general headquarters of the governor Agricola. Prof. Richmond early in his career, in 1930, produced the standard work on the City Wall of Imperial Rome. His most recent book is the masterly history of Roman Britain published last year by Penguin Books, Ltd., which ends with an admirable twelve-page bibliography. Prof. Richmond is a Fellow of the British Academy and an honorary graduate of the University of Edinburgh; in May he is to receive an honorary degree from the University of Leeds. In the University of Durham he has served with distinction as dean of the Faculty of Arts and as Public Orator. He is widely known as a skilful lecturer of exceptional clarity of speech. Joined to his patient devotion to study and investigation are a warmth of human sympathy and gaiety of heart which will endear him, as it has endeared him to his many friends at Newcastle and elsewhere, to the society of All Souls College, Oxford, of which he will be a Fellow when he takes up his new professorship next autumn.

### Nicholas Kulchitsky (1856-1925)

THE eminent histologist, Nicholas Kulchitsky, was born at Kronstadt a hundred years ago, on January 30, and it is almost exactly thirty-one years since he met with the accident in London that led to his death at the age of sixty-nine. Kulchitsky was appointed to the chair of histology at Kharkov in 1893, retiring from it in 1910 in order that the

younger members of his staff might have better opportunities for promotion. He held a number of appointments in Russia before the revolution of 1917, finally becoming Minister of Education. There followed a period of considerable hardship until he arrived in England in 1921. He joined the staff of the Anatomy Department at University College, London, on the invitation of Sir Grafton Elliot Smith, continuing to teach and to follow his research work until his death in 1925. Kulchitsky's scientific work extended over a wide field of histological investigation, ranging from studies on the intestinal epithelium to the comparative anatomy of nerve-endings in muscle. He will always be remembered for his discovery of the cells of the intestine that at one time carried his name. Nowadays these cells are known as argentaffin or enterochromaffin cells, and their function is still not clear. They have been thought to be neurosecretory or concerned with the absorption of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>; but many workers consider that Kulchitsky's own suggestion that they produce secretin may well be correct. He was an admirable technician, and his name is continually recalled to neurologists by his modification of the Weigert method that made possible the better staining of myelinated nerve fibres.

### Benjamin Franklin in Britain

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN made his first visit to London in 1724, when still an unknown lad. His second visit, lasting from 1757 until 1762, was made as a delegate of the General Assembly of Philadelphia, and during these five years he was in close touch with the Royal Society, of which he had been elected Fellow in 1756, and the newly founded Society of Arts (see also *Nature* of January 14, p. 60). When Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade delivered the Trueman Wood Memorial Lecture to the latter Society on January 18, he took as his subject "Benjamin Franklin in London". After giving a brief account of Franklin's early life, and his electrical experiments, Prof. Andrade turned to his visits to England, and described his close association with scientific circles in London during his second and third visits to England. The latter extended from 1764 until 1775. Over nearly two decades, Franklin was closely associated with the administration of