

work on the migration of sea trout and had begun an investigation into racial characteristics of salmon. His death on the last day of October 1955 deprived all who knew him of a much-valued friend and cut short a scientific career of great promise. He left a

widow and two small children to whom he was devoted, and we extend our deepest sympathy to them.

F. T. K. PENTELOW

[A communication of which he was part-author appears on p. 664 of this issue of *Nature*.]

NEWS and VIEWS

Refractories Technology at Sheffield :

Prof. J. White

THE firm of J. and J. Dyson, Ltd., of Stanington, manufacturers of refractory materials, has given £15,000 to the University of Sheffield for the establishment of a chair in refractories technology, which the University has named the Dyson chair of refractories technology, and Dr. James White, reader in ceramics in the University, has been appointed the first holder. After graduating in physical chemistry from the University of Glasgow in 1931, Dr. White did metallurgical research at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and later became lecturer in metallurgy there. In 1939 he was awarded the Carnegie Gold Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute. He left the College in 1943 to become head of research of General Refractories, Ltd., and three years later went to the University of Sheffield as senior lecturer in refractory materials, being appointed reader in ceramics in 1952. Dr. White has published a large number of research papers and is a recognized authority on the chemistry of ceramics and refractory materials. The creation of the new chair, which is the first such one to be established in Great Britain, and of a separate department specializing in the subject, should do much to further the advancement of knowledge in a field of great importance to the steel industry of Britain, and especially the industries of the Sheffield district.

Botanical Survey of India :

Dr. G. S. Puri

DR. G. S. PURI, formerly ecologist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has been appointed regional botanist-in-charge of the northern circle of the Botanical Survey of India. In 1938 he came under the influence of Dr. R. R. Stewart and joined him in the explorations of the Kashmir, Hazara and Murree Hills, and collected extensively. In 1940, at the invitation of Prof. B. Sahni, he joined the Botanical Department of the University of Lucknow and worked on the flora of the Karewa formations of Kashmir, for which he was awarded the Ruchi Ram Sahni Prize for the best research in the University. He has conducted extensive geological and botanical explorations in the Kashmir Himalayas and discovered fossiliferous strata. During 1942-45 he worked on the correlation of oil-bearing strata in the Assam Tertiaries by micro-fossils for the Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., a pioneer work in India. In 1945 he was selected by the Government of India for training abroad in ecology and systematic botany and worked in the University of London under Prof. W. H. Pearsall. He is secretary of the Indian Council of Ecological Research and the Society of Tropical Ecology.

Research at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham :

Mr. E. A. Murphy

MR. E. A. MURPHY, general development manager at the Research Centre, Fort Dunlop, Birmingham,

has been appointed director of research in charge of the central research division of the Dunlop organization. Mr. Murphy, who, for his services to the rubber industry, has been awarded the Colwyn Medal by the Institution of the Rubber Industry, joined the Dunlop chemical laboratories during the First World War. One of the activities of the general development division set up under him during the Second World War was the investigation of synthetic rubber manufacture. A pilot plant was then started and this led to the designing of the experimental plant for synthetic rubber production now being erected at the Research Centre, which has enabled Dunlop to take the leading part in the project for the large-scale manufacture of synthetic rubber in Britain by the recently formed International Synthetic Rubber Company.

Government Pressures on the Press

THE International Press Institute, Zurich, has published as Survey No. 4 a study on "Government Pressures on the Press", which displays clearly but objectively the gravity of attacks that have been made on the freedom of the Press, even outside the totalitarian States, and the dependence of effective defence against such attacks upon an informed public opinion. The reasons which may lead even a liberal-minded government to desire the Press to exercise some restraint on publication are fairly indicated; it is emphasized that the Press is not above the law and that, although ideally the freedom of the Press should be complete, in practice this has to be qualified, nor can governments be indicted for not tolerating attacks which might endanger their existence. The first part of the study analyses pressures based on the law, the second those of an economic, administrative or purely political nature, and the third part in particular shows that the scientific and technical Press is no more immune from such pressures than the newspapers. The Institute is particularly concerned about the situation in South Africa, and especially because of the public apathy to successive government enactments during the past five years which have made the position of the Press there most precarious. In Australia and in India there are restrictive laws which are potentially dangerous; though they are not likely to be so applied by present or viable governments. The value of the study lies in the assembly of a large amount of factual material in convenient form and in indicating the nature and causes of the present threats to freedom of the Press. By and large, they arise less from the spread of illiberalism than from the growth of government and the domain of official policy in a divided and uneasy world.

National Research Development Corporation of India : Report for 1954-55

THE National Research Development Corporation of India was registered on December 31, 1953, its main function being to stimulate the development of