

parallel to the introduction of cultivated plants, he could use the old records in the British Museum for his purpose, and he began to write his last book, "The Botany of Cook's Voyages". Unfortunately he was taken ill and the work was interrupted; he recovered and resumed it, but was taken ill again. At a second resumption he completed the writing, and with the help of others the book was published in the autumn of 1954, by which time he was exceedingly ill; but he lived to February 25 of this year. He had received many honours and had obtained an international position in his own branch of botany that was unmatched. I. H. BURKILL

#### Sir Cyril Norwood

WITH the death of Sir Cyril Norwood on March 13, at the age of eighty, there passed an outstanding figure in the world of education of the past fifty years. His influence was comparable to that of men like Arnold in the nineteenth century. Norwood, a brilliant classical scholar from Merchant Taylors' School, gained the highest honours at Oxford and spent several years in the Home Civil Service before entering the teaching profession at Leeds Grammar School in 1901. Five years later he became headmaster of Bristol Grammar School, and during fifteen years he transformed its standards and achievements. Then followed nine years, perhaps the zenith of his school activities, as master of Marlborough College, before his migration to the headmastership of Harrow and in 1934 to the presidency of St. John's, Oxford, his former College, from which he resigned in 1946 because of his wife's ill-health.

Throughout his whole educational career, Dr. Norwood brought what has been called the 'modern approach' to bear upon the organization concerned. Without relinquishing his firm belief both in the value of a classical training for the study of language and in the study of ancient history, he was among the first to emphasize the need for a greater emphasis on the teaching of modern languages, geography, science, and later of economics. His underlying aim seemed to be to modify where necessary an existing system of education—sometimes stereotyped or stagnant—so as to meet the needs of a changing world or society, and the present arrangement of the General Certificate of Education examinations owes much to the analysis of the Norwood Report of 1943. The vast impact of the sciences, pure and applied, during the post-war years, came a little too late for him to play an active part; but it might have been interesting indeed to see his outlook upon it.

Norwood had a strong, compelling, even if at times enigmatic personality. In appearance he might have been likened to Lord Kitchener, and the methods of the two men were at times similar. His deep religious beliefs were matched by a conviction of the essential correctness and desirability of his educational policies. This caused him at times to appear despotic and ruthless. He brought criticism upon himself from some by the widespread publicity he gave to his ideas. Yet he did not deliberately seek the publicity which followed as a result of the innate conviction of his mission and his desire for progress. The value of his work was proved by the successes of his pupils and masters alike. His reserve, possibly a shyness, made him appear unapproachable to many; but others learnt to know him as a kindly, human personality and a friend of good counsel. Of all the

talks which he gave throughout his life, few could have surpassed in simple, penetrating eloquence that which he delivered in the chapel of his College on the cessation of war in 1945. For him, too, it was to be the epilogue of a life filled with interest and achievement.

#### Dr. Robert Pohl

OVER a period of fully half a century, developments in the design of rotating electrical machines have been influenced by the work of Dr. Robert Pohl, whose death occurred on March 15. He was seventy-seven years of age.

Born at Hamm, Westphalia, Pohl received his university education at Hanover and his first industrial experience with the firm of Lahmeyer in Frankfurt. At the time at which Pohl entered the electrical industry, direct-current practice was well established and the utilization of alternating current was undergoing intensive development. The dynamo was already an efficient and relatively refined machine awaiting only the devising of means further to improve its commutation. Pohl's first contribution to the advancement of electrical knowledge, made when he was little more than a student, was towards elucidating the mode of action of the interpole or commutating pole then newly invented.

Pohl went to England in 1904 to join the staff of the Phoenix Dynamo Co. of Bradford, and he was appointed chief engineer of the Company at the age of twenty-eight. He was responsible for the production by that Company of the first machine with commutating poles to be built in Great Britain. From 1905 onwards Pohl contributed, except for the period of the First World War, to the literature of electrical machinery. His more important early papers were on direct-current machines, but by 1914 he was writing on turbo-alternators.

Six months after the outbreak of the First World War Pohl was interned. He returned to Germany in 1919, where he became director and chief engineer of the A.E.G. Turbine Works in Berlin. More than thirty papers, published for the most part in *Elektro-Technische Zeitschrift* and *Elektrotechnik und Maschinenbau* between 1919 and 1938, record the contributions which placed Pohl in the first rank of designers of large electrical machines. He made one of the early experiments in the hydrogen cooling of alternators, running a machine in town's gas in Charlottenburg. By 1938 it had become clear to Pohl that he and his family could not much longer escape Nazi persecution. Through the good offices of friends he was able to get away safely to England and was joined by his wife and son. Prof. William Cramp was instrumental in securing the appointment of Pohl to the staff of his department in the University of Birmingham.

The third phase of Pohl's career was to prove no less fruitful than the first two. He brought to his teaching a wealth of practical experience, and he had the power to transmit his ideas. The British Thomson-Houston Co. retained him as a consultant, and it was not long before contributions from his pen began again to appear in the *Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers*. This time, inductor alternators and the behaviour of magnetic material in machines claimed much of his attention.

At the time of his retirement from the University of Birmingham Pohl was serving as a consultant in

relation to the power supply for the synchrotron which was then under construction, and here again he made a significant contribution.

The outstanding quality of all Dr. Pohl's work is its clear physical insight. Although nearly all his papers involve some mathematical analysis, it is in the originality of his physical concepts that his genius is demonstrated.

Dr. Pohl had an exceptional endowment of fine qualities. He was a man of complete integrity and liberal philosophy. His intellectual distinction he carried lightly, for he possessed a keen and subtle sense of humour which he not infrequently turned

against himself. He was musical, a great reader of literature, and he had a critical appreciation of art. Perhaps his most endearing quality was a wonderful capacity for friendship with children. No one could have a more staunch friend, and countless people stand in his debt for help freely given. Pohl was almost too acutely conscious of human suffering and it might be said of him that the sharp distress of the world sometimes pressed upon his keen intellect and sensitive mind to the point of pain. Those who knew Pohl recognized in him a quality of intellect, sympathy, and understanding which is supremely rare.

JAMES GREIG

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Directorship of the London School of Economics and Political Science :

Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, F.B.A.

SIR ALEXANDER CARR-SAUNDERS retires as director of the London School of Economics and Political Science at the end of the year, a post he has held since 1937 when he succeeded Sir William (now Lord) Beveridge. There have been only five directors of the School since the beginning in 1895, all of them men of great distinction and breadth of experience, and the present director takes his place as by no means the least distinguished, nor the least successful, of the five. He read zoology at Oxford, but his interests in demographic and social studies led him to accept the offer of the Charles Booth chair of social science at Liverpool in 1923. Since then his contributions to the advancement of social studies and his public services generally have been numerous. He has guided the London School of Economics through what has been perhaps its most difficult period. He found for the School a happy war-time home at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and he leaves it re-established in London, a smooth-running and harmonious institution with an international standing higher than ever before. At the same time, he has been a tireless traveller and an indefatigable worker in the cause of higher education in the Colonies. He was chairman of the two Commissions which led to the creation, first of the University of Malaya, and then of the new University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Salisbury. It is hoped that he will continue to preside over the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas and to give the new universities overseas the benefit of his wise and experienced counsel.

Sir Sydney Caine, K.C.M.G.

SIR SYDNEY CAINE, who succeeds Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, is well equipped for the task; he brings to his new post an almost unique experience in administration and financial affairs. He is no stranger to the London School of Economics, since he graduated there with great distinction in 1922, and he has served for many years both on the Court of Governors of the School and on the University of London Board of Studies in Economics. Nor is he a stranger to university administration, since he has been a very successful vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya since 1952. Between 1923 and 1952 he built up a high reputation as a Civil servant, first as an inspector of taxes, then for many years in the Colonial Office, and finally in the Treasury. He

has served as Financial Secretary in Hong Kong, as financial adviser to the Colonial Secretary, and as head of the Treasury Delegation in Washington. Since he went to Malaya, though giving up a career as public servant, he has not cut himself off from public affairs. He has been concerned with the problems of confederation in the West Indies, and he is at present acting as economic adviser to Mr. Marshall, the Chief Minister in the new administration in Singapore.

### Directorship of the Waite Institute, Adelaide :

Prof. J. A. Prescott, C.B.E., F.R.S.

PROF. J. A. PRESCOTT retired from the directorship of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute of the University of Adelaide at the end of January. He had held the Waite chair of agricultural chemistry since 1924 and the directorship of the Institute since 1938. Between 1929 and 1947 he was also chief of the Division of Soils of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. For his work in Australian pedology and his studies in agricultural climatology, Prof. Prescott has achieved an international reputation; and on his retirement the University conferred on him the title of professor emeritus.

Dr. James Melville

DR. JAMES MELVILLE, director of the Grasslands Division of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research since 1952, has succeeded Prof. Prescott as director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide. His interests are broad, but have been concerned particularly with pasture growth and quality in relation to animal production.

### New Television Transmitting Station at the Crystal Palace, London

THE first regular daily television service in the world was started from the Alexandra Palace Station of the B.B.C. on November 2, 1936, and with the exception of a break during the war period, this station has provided the service for the London area since that date. On March 28, however, this service was taken over by the new television transmitting station at the Crystal Palace, where the partially completed permanent tower is a notable landmark in south London. A technical description of the new station is contained in a paper presented by Messrs. F. C. McLean, A. N. Thomas and R. A. Rowden at a meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers on April 4. The station is planned to have ultimately