

giving immunity from all aircraft, and would not necessarily require universal adoption and standardization of design. Co-operative systems using equipment in both aircraft certainly seem more feasible, and various radio and radar techniques were discussed in relation to such devices. This is a field wide open for further study and invention.

Although no formal conclusions were drawn from this meeting, the discussions did show that there are several distinct possible roles for air collision-warning systems, and that their introduction may be inhibited by an attempt to fill all these roles with one infallible

device. For example, a fairly simple system might be developed to provide proximity warning when overtaking another aircraft in visual conditions. This might warn the pilot of the presence and direction of the other aircraft, so that he could make an avoidance manoeuvre visually. Such a device might have prevented the Grand Canyon disaster last year, and other similar accidents. It is possible that operational experience, gained by the use of comparatively simple devices of this kind, will indicate the lines for more advanced developments.

D. O. FRASER

NEWS and VIEWS

British Museum (Natural History) :

Dr. H. W. Parker, C.B.E.

It has recently been announced that Dr. H. W. Parker, keeper of zoology in the British Museum (Natural History), is to retire on October 1. His tenure of the keepership has been outstanding for his introduction into museum practice of the principle that species are live populations in Nature, varying in time and in space, affected by ecological and geographical factors, and requiring statistical treatment of large samples and study in the field. No longer can it be said that a species is what resembles a particular specimen stuck on a pin in a museum. Dr. Parker's numerous publications reflect this infusion of the 'new systematics' into museum taxonomical work, and his monographs on the lizards of Somaliland, the Microhylid frogs and the Leptodactylid frogs are universally regarded as classical contributions to the subject.

Dr. F. C. Fraser

DR. F. C. FRASER, who succeeds Dr. Parker, brings to the keepership of zoology a fundamental training in the principles of taxonomy and a long career of research into the life, structure and function of whales. In investigations undertaken under his supervision, the significance of the sounds emitted by whales under water has been elucidated by means of researches into the structure and function of the auditory apparatus, which show that whales are enabled to detect the direction from which the sounds come. This is a fundamental necessity for the continuance of the species by enabling the animals to meet in a medium where the senses of smell, sight, taste and touch are unavailing. In a recent communication in *Nature*, Dr. Fraser and one of his colleagues have put forward a new and objective explanation of the 'blow' of whales which seems likely to prove a major contribution to the solution of an age-old problem.

Mr. J. D. Macdonald

MR. J. D. MACDONALD is succeeding Dr. Fraser in the deputy keepership of zoology. Mr. Macdonald has been in charge of the Bird Room at the British Museum (Natural History) since 1944, and has been responsible for the new Bird Gallery and British Bird Pavilion which have met with great favour from visitors. He has travelled far afield in connexion with his researches, and went on ornithological expeditions to the Southern Sudan and to South-

West Africa, whence he brought back valuable collections.

Geography at Bristol :

Prof. W. W. Jervis

ON the evening of June 14 a large company of past and present students of the Department of Geography in the University of Bristol bade farewell to Prof. W. W. Jervis, who retired from the chair of geography at the end of the academic year. Prof. Jervis, geographer and barrister-at-law, is a graduate of the University of Durham, having been a student at Armstrong College, Newcastle, before the First World War. His first appointment was as lecturer in mathematics and geography at Exeter in 1913. Shortly afterwards he was on active service, chiefly on the North West Frontier of India and in Mesopotamia. In 1919 he was appointed lecturer in geography in the University of Bristol and began to build up the now flourishing and active Department. Created reader in geography in 1926, he was elected to the first chair of geography in the University of Bristol in 1933. The events of the Second World War called a halt to further developments and the Department of Geography did not escape the damage inflicted upon Bristol and its University. During part of the War Prof. Jervis was again in uniform, commanding the 9th Gloucestershire Battalion of the Home Guard. On the return to peace-time conditions, Prof. Jervis and his colleagues faced the problems common to all universities against a background of re-creating a Department with its essential physical resources. There has been one very clearly marked feature of the work instanced in the Department's well-known and deserved reputation in surveying, reflecting Prof. Jervis's own interest in all matters appertaining to cartography. The spread of his graduates over many fields of employment and areas in the world is in itself a tribute to the achievements of the retiring professor.

Prof. R. F. E. W. Peel

PROF. W. W. JERVIS is to be succeeded at the University of Bristol by Prof. R. F. E. W. Peel, of the University of Leeds, who graduated at Cambridge in 1934. His first university appointment was in the Department of Geography, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1935. In 1938 he was granted leave of absence to join an expedition to Libya under the leadership of Bagnold, and his abilities as a geographer and anthropologist (he took the diploma in anthropology at Cambridge in 1935) were shown in both his contributions in the field and in published papers on his return. On the out-