

Act in 1919 which set up the Forestry Commission, he was an obvious choice as a member of the new body, joining his friends Lord Lovat and Sir John Stirling Maxwell. Starting a new venture like this was a landmark in forestry history, and foresters throughout Britain owe much to the hard and difficult work which these pioneers carried out. To all this Clinton contributed greatly, not only from his knowledge of forestry, but also from his experience in public affairs both local and national. From these efforts has risen an organization which those pioneers can scarcely have imagined.

He remained a member of the Forestry Commission until 1930, becoming chairman in 1927. His interest in forestry persisted to the end, and as recently as 1956 he persuaded the Forestry Commission to take over his woods on his New Pitligo estate in Aberdeenshire to ensure that neither the effects of good management nor his experimental work there should be lost in the future.

Clinton was Lord Warden of the Stannaries in the Duchy of Cornwall during 1922-33, and to this office he was able to bring his great experience of land management. This office means in effect that he was the principal adviser to the heir of the throne in the management of his estates. It is, however, curious that in that office he never succeeded in arousing much interest in forestry in the Duchy woodlands.

He was also chairman of the Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee, the governing body of Rothamsted Experimental Station, during 1924-37. Here again his profound practical knowledge of agriculture and its needs was of great value to a body of scientists who, in common with scientific endeavour in almost all walks of life, had a tendency to be led astray from any practical aspects by their enthusiasm for theory.

During his very active life, Clinton was able once again to show how much Britain is losing by the passing of great landowners such as he. RADNOR

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Meteorology at Harvard :

Prof. Charles F. Brooks

DR. CHARLES F. BROOKS, professor of meteorology at Harvard and director of the Blue Hill Observatory since 1931, is retiring this month and will be succeeded by Dr. R. M. Goody, at present reader in meteorology in the University of London (Imperial College of Science and Technology). Dr. Brooks, who was born in 1891, is perhaps the best loved figure in present-day American meteorology. He is noted for his integrity, courage and helpfulness to others, and these qualities have been most apparent and appreciated in his work for learned societies. In 1919 he set about re-establishing the American Meteorological Society (a task in which others had previously failed), became its first secretary and later treasurer, and by his personal efforts helped greatly to make it the successful institution which it is to-day. He held the post as secretary continuously until 1953. He has also served as president of the American Geophysical Union. Dr. Brooks is a meteorologist of infectious enthusiasm, occupying himself with observations when travelling on business or pleasure. His research work has covered the wide range of the climatology of North America, long-range weather forecasting and the effect of ocean temperatures on weather, instruments, microclimatology, eclipse meteorology, snowfall and clouds. He showed in the early 19 0's that a downdraught was almost certainly an essential feature in the life-history of a thunderstorm, a finding the importance of which has only come to be generally appreciated in the past decade or so.

Dr. R. M. Goody

DR. R. M. GOODY, who was born in 1921, has been a Fellow and Scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge. He took his degree in physics in 1942 and for the next four years worked in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, first testing aircraft and later as a special duties officer in charge of a German research institute in Göttingen. In the course of this later work he was involved with the Control Commission in the first phases of the creation of the Max Planck Institutes. Dr. Goody took his Ph.D. in 1950 and was appointed

Fellow of his College in that year. In 1951 he was awarded a Senior Studentship of the 1851 Exhibition and in 1953 he went to the Imperial College of Science and Technology as reader in meteorology. Since the War, Dr. Goody's interests have mainly been in the field of infra-red spectroscopy and its application to atmospheric problems, which has led him into the whole field of radiative transfer problems. He has done notable research on the stratosphere, and is the author of "The Physics of the Stratosphere" (Camb. Univ. Press, 1954). Recent research on the emission of radiation by atmospheric ozone has led him to a new method of determining the vertical distribution of ozone from observations at the ground. At present he is in charge of a small observatory of the Department of Meteorology, Imperial College, at Silwood Farm, Ascot. Dr. Goody will take up his new appointment in the summer of 1958.

### The British Rainfall Organization: Memorial to G. J. Symons, F.R.S.

AN interesting dual ceremony was held in Camden Square, London, N.W., on August 8 under the auspices of the Royal Meteorological Society to honour the memory of George James Symons, pioneer in the scientific study of rainfall, and to mark the re-opening of the Society's historic London weather station on a new site. During the years 1854-58, repeated spells of drought made Symons see the need for assessing Britain's potential water resources by means of accurate and systematic measurements of rainfall. For this purpose he set about recruiting volunteer observers, and by 1860 was able to publish records from 168 gauges—all in England and Wales. Soon he extended the investigations to Scotland and Ireland. Public interest in the work grew so rapidly that the number of collaborating observers rose to two thousand within twenty years and reached 3,500 by the close of the nineteenth century. Thus was formed the British Rainfall Organization—a remarkable example of private enterprise supported mainly by voluntary effort. On Symons's death in 1900 he was replaced first by his chief assistant, H. Sowerby Wallis, and, shortly afterwards, by the late Dr. Hugh Robert