

Munich. The contemporary work on the Palaeozoic ovules by Oliver and his associates had made the elucidation of the structure of cycadean ovules, to which the fossils were superficially compared, a real necessity. Dr. Stopes found evidence in the cycad ovules that the integument is a double structure, and simultaneously with the tentative view expressed by Oliver and Scott, concluded that it is the morphological equivalent of the inner integument and free cupular structure of the *Lagenostoma* ovule: an interpretation fundamental to our understanding of the evolution of integumentary structures.

In 1904 Dr. Stopes was appointed to the staff of the University of Manchester. Among many contributions published during the ten years she spent at Manchester was a treatise jointly with Prof. D. M. S. Watson on the distribution and origin of coal balls. Similar concretions from the Lower Cretaceous of Japan, in which country she spent some time during 1907-9, revealed an extensive flora, and several papers describing this were published, some in collaboration with Japanese botanists.

Her interest in the Cretaceous floras was to become more apparent, for at about this time she was asked to work on the collection of Cretaceous plants housed in the British Museum. The two volumes published as the "Catalogue of the Cretaceous Flora" (1913, 1915) will surely be her best-known scientific work. Preparation for this work took her to many countries. In 1911 she travelled in Canada and the United States, and in between her Cretaceous studies, discovered what were probably the very first coal balls to be

found in America, and made collections from the Carboniferous 'fern ledges' of New Brunswick.

Meanwhile, Dr. Stopes had written a small textbook on palaeobotany entitled "Ancient Plants" (Blackie, 1910). It was written particularly for elementary students, and was the first English textbook to bring this rapidly advancing subject before students at a non-specialist level.

She returned to University College in 1914 as a Fellow and lecturer in palaeobotany. Several papers on Cretaceous plants followed the publication of the British Museum Catalogue, but throughout the succeeding years her interest became more and more centred on coal, quite apart from the plants that went into its making. Spurred, no doubt, by the effects of war, her palaeobotanical knowledge was employed in the service of fuel technology. This proved a very fruitful union, and several memoirs, mostly in collaboration with Prof. R. V. Wheeler, are of fundamental importance in this field of work. Their joint "Monograph on the Constitution of Coal" (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1918) set the stage for all subsequent research on this subject. The new terms (clarain, durain, vitrain, etc.) which she introduced later to the petrology of banded bituminous coal found ready acceptance, and her "Classification of Coal Ingredients" (1935) has been almost universally adopted.

Dr. Stopes founded a small museum on Portland Island, and it was one of her ambitions to make it the possessor of the largest collection of Cycadeoidea in England.

D. W. BRETT

NEWS and VIEWS

Australian University Grants Committee :

Sir Leslie Martin, C.B.E., F.R.S.

IN 1956, a committee, appointed by the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Menzies, to inquire into such matters as "the role of the university in the Australian community; the extension and co-ordination of university facilities; technical education at university level; and the financial needs of universities and appropriate means of providing for these needs", was set up. The committee was under the chairmanship of Sir Keith Murray, and its report was published in 1957 (see *Nature*, 181, 300; 1958). The report stated that university development in Australia could no longer be left to individual institutions or confined within the boundaries of one State, and the establishment of a permanent Australian University Grants Committee was strongly urged. This has been accepted by the Australian Federal Government, and Sir Leslie Martin has been appointed the first chairman. Sir Leslie is professor of physics in the University of Melbourne, and, since 1948, has been defence scientific adviser and chairman of the Defence Research and Development Policy Committee. He is an Australian by birth, and was educated at Melbourne High School, the University of Melbourne and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Industrial Biochemistry at Manchester :

Prof. T. K. Walker

THE retirement of Prof. Thomas Kennedy Walker from the chair of biochemistry in the Faculty of Tech-

nology at the Manchester College of Science and Technology brings to a close a long and active career in the service of the College. Although Prof. Walker's earliest publications concerned more particularly the field of organic chemistry, his attention soon turned towards chemical changes effected by various bacteria and moulds with particular reference to those of interest to the brewing and fermentation industries. This is reflected in the prominent position occupied by such topics in a series of almost two hundred publications which appeared in conjunction with various collaborators over a period from the late 1920's to the present day. The importance of his work in this field received recognition in 1956 with his elevation from the position of reader in fermentation processes to professorial status. More recently, the work of his school has received further stimulus from the fact that with the growing recognition of the need for further technological education the Manchester College is being expanded to provide, among other improved facilities, an enlarged school of biochemistry with excellent facilities both for research and teaching. Quite apart from his valuable material services to science, Prof. Walker will take with him into retirement the exceptionally high personal regard of a large number of former students and colleagues.

Prof. A. A. Eddy

THE Councils of the University of Manchester and the Manchester College of Science and Technology have approved the appointment of Dr. Alan A. Eddy