

the inshore fisheries was recognized by his appointment as O.B.E. in 1941.

He will be chiefly remembered for a series of books relating to fisheries and fishes: "The Sea Fisheries" (1920); "A Textbook of Oceanography" (1921); "A History of the Whale Fisheries" (1921); "The Herring and the Herring Fisheries" (1927); "Whales and Modern Whaling" (1932); and, best known of all, "The Fishes of the British Isles", the first edition of which appeared in 1925 and the second in 1936. He had always a keen interest in the historical and literary aspects of the fishing industries, and his last publication, issued in 1948 by the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History, was a comprehensive "Bibliography of the Whale Fisheries".

Jenkins was for many years a member of the Council of the National Museum of Wales. I recall with appreciation not only his many donations of specimens to the Zoology Department of the Museum but also his companionship both abroad and on collecting trips on board the Lancashire and Western Committee's steamer, the S.S. *James Fletcher*.

COLIN MATHESON

Mrs. E. W. Sexton

THE death occurred on February 18, at the home of her son at Alfriston in Sussex, of Mrs. Alice Wilkins Sexton, at the age of ninety. Although without scientific academic training, Mrs. Sexton (known

under her adopted initials of 'E. W.') became an authority of international repute on Crustacea. Living at Plymouth, where her husband was a dentist, she began to work at the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association at the beginning of this century under the guidance of the late Dr. E. J. Allen, for whom she made beautiful drawings of polychaetes. Later, she was appointed a member of the scientific staff of the Plymouth Laboratory.

She was most noted for her systematic work on amphipods, and for the detailed study she made of the growth, moulting, intersexes and genetics of *Gammarus*. In the latter she concentrated especially on eye colour. The names of her species, *Gammarus chevreuxi* and *G. zaddachi*, are well known to biologists. All her publications were accompanied by examples of her meticulously careful and accurate drawings, which were at times astonishing in their detail.

A woman of remarkable vitality, she had many interests, notably the cultivation of unusual plants from many countries. Until she had to leave Plymouth in 1957 owing to failing eyesight her hospitable home, with its many and varied treasures, had been open to a very wide circle of friends from Britain and elsewhere.

Mrs. Sexton was a Fellow of the Linnean Society. She leaves a married son, Col. F. B. W. Sexton; her daughter Mary, who was librarian at the Plymouth Laboratory, died in 1951. F. S. RUSSELL

NEWS and VIEWS

Pharmacology at Oxford: Prof. J. H. Burn, F.R.S.

JOSHUA HAROLD BURN has been professor of pharmacology in Oxford since 1937. His restless energy has built the most active pharmacological department in the world. Many of his students have learned to do accurate experiments and to write clear papers. He has attracted workers from many countries, who came to learn the techniques of which he is master. He is retiring at the age of sixty-seven, but shows no sign that his mind is less active than it was. He was educated at Barnard Castle School, University of Cambridge, and Guy's Hospital, London. Like many others, he derived inspiration from H. H. Dale, with whom he worked before the First World War at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, and then, after service in the Royal Engineers, in the National Institute for Medical Research. In 1926 he became professor of pharmacology in the College of the Pharmaceutical Society and director of a laboratory which undertook the biological standardization of drugs on a large scale. He wrote a book which laid the foundations of accurate methods of assay, and he has written at least half a dozen other books on various aspects of pharmacology, and large numbers of scientific papers, lectures, reviews, editorials and reports of various kinds. He makes up his mind and puts his thoughts on paper without trouble or delay, and has provided a very potent stimulus to the development of pharmacology. His work has been concerned with all classes of drug, but has been especially important when he has used pharmacological methods to solve physiological problems.

Prof. W. D. M. Paton, F.R.S.

WILLIAM DRUMMOND MACDONALD PATON succeeds Burn as professor of pharmacology at Oxford. He was born in 1917 and educated at Repton School, the University of Oxford, and University College Hospital, London. He joined the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research in 1944. During his eight years there he made his name by two outstanding pieces of work. With F. C. MacIntosh he showed that various simple organic bases cause the release of histamine, which disappears from the tissues of animals. It has thus been possible to study not only the mechanisms of release, but also the effects of removing most of the histamine, which are surprisingly small. With E. Zaimis he discovered not only that small doses of decamethonium cause neuromuscular blockade by depolarizing the end plate, but also that hexamethonium blocks transmission through autonomic ganglia. The analysis of the mode of action of these drugs by these two workers became a model for such studies. Hexamethonium was the first drug shown to have a really powerful and specific action on peripheral autonomic ganglia. It has been invaluable as a research tool, but it is best known as the basis of the first really effective treatment for high blood pressure. This was a major advance in therapeutics and led to the award of the Cameron Prize to Paton and Zaimis in 1956. In 1952 Paton went as reader to University College and in 1954 he was appointed to the newly founded chair of pharmacology at the Royal College of Surgeons.