eminence in the university field. He was a scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, and was fifth Wrangler in 1898, immediately below Jeans and Hardy. In the following year he read natural science, and again took a first. His only appointment was at Harrow School; here he taught mathematics with increasing brilliance and success until his retirement in 1936, and in these years he earned the affection of generations of Harrovians. In 1902 Jesus College elected him to a fellowship and, in December of the same year at the age of twenty-six, he was appointed to a University Syndicate to discuss mathematical requirements. The report stated that any geometrical proof would be accepted provided it appeared "to form part of a systematic treatment of the subject"; Levett's cherished freedom was achieved. From this time to the end of his busy life, Siddons was engaged in converting the rigid logic of mathematics into a form suitable for young minds. In this his greatest collaborator was Charles Godfrey; as a team they had the ability to put into practice their progressive ideas and, when necessary, to write the appropriate text-books.

In addition to an intensely happy family life and to his devoted service to Harrow, Siddons's great joy was his work with the Mathematical Association. In 1902 he was elected secretary of the newly formed Teaching Committee. The reports prepared by this Committee now cover the whole field of school mathematics, and in preparing many of them, Siddons (and his life-long friend, C. O. Tuckey) took a leading part. The Association recorded its gratitude by electing him as president in 1935—he was the first schoolmaster ever to achieve this distinction—and in 1958 it bestowed the rare privilege of honorary membership.

With all his ability, all this distinction, Siddons was a very simple person. He was a great conversationalist and a most lovable man: in the Harrow tradition he was very fond of singing, and the School on the Hill has cause to remember his genius as a gardener and maker of lawns. He claimed that in his school-days he found mathematics difficult; perhaps this explains his success as a teacher and his passion for simplicity within the limits of exactness. To the end his mind was crystal clear, and he died peacefully in his sleep on November 10. Those who knew him well will miss his warm friendship, and the whole body of teachers and taught in mathematics is grateful for his life and his labours.

W. J. LANGFORD

NEWS and VIEWS

International Scientific Relationships: Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, For.Mem.R.S.

A SPECIAL medal (Fig. 1) has been awarded to Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute, by the Society for Promoting International Scientific Relationships. The award has been made for Dr. Bronk's accomplishments in fostering the promotion of scientific research and international co-operation through exchanges of scholars. The medal was presented on November 24 by Dr. Herman F. Mark, honorary president of the Society and director of the Institute of Polymer Research at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. At the meeting Dr. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, delivered an address on "Science and the Progress of Man".

Fig. 1

Bristol City Museums: Dr. F. S. Wallis

DR. F. S. WALLIS will bring to a close his long and distinguished service to the Bristol City Museums in May of next year. A Bristol man, he was educated at the Fairfield Secondary School, Bristol, and at the University of Bristol, where his academic career was broken by service in the First World War with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the R.F.C., later the R.A.F. He graduated with first-class honours in geology in 1920, and afterwards took his M.Sc., his Ph.D., and finally, in 1930, his D.Sc. He was appointed assistant curator in geology after his first graduation and has devoted his life to the welfare and development of the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, of which he was promoted to be deputy director in 1930. On the division of the Museum and Art Gallery in 1945, he became director of the City Museum—now 'Museums' as they include the Blaise Castle Folk Museum. He has never forgotten his first love as he has held for more than thirty years the post of special lecturer in sedimentary petrology in the University of Bristol and has since 1936 taken the evening tutorial class in geology there. He has always been interested in adult education and has lectured extensively to members of various organizations in Bristol and the surrounding district. For his field-work he was awarded the Lyell Fund of the Geological Society. In the museums field, he has long laboured for better lay-outs, more didactic exhibits and more artistic displays, and he has not spared himself in extending good ideas and projects of reorganization throughout the museums of the south-west of Britain. He served with unassuming distinction as president of the South Western Museums and Art Galleries Association and also, in 1956, of the national body, the Museums Association, in which he now ranks as an elder statesman. He gave notable service to the Joint Committee of the Museums Association and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees, both as a member and for five years as its chairman, in the worthy task of allocating grants for the reorganization of smaller provincial museums. He was war-time editor of the *Museums*

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