

In 1932-33 he accompanied Jeannel and Arambourg on their expedition to the River Omo and climbed Mt. Elgon. He and his colleagues visited hundreds of caves in little-known or unexplored parts of Transylvania, notably in the Bihar Mountains, and in old Serbia.

A fuller account of his life, together with a complete list of his numerous scientific publications, will appear in a memorial part of the *Annales de Spéléologie*. He wrote the third volume of Thienemann's "Die Binnengewässer", entitled "Die Tierwelt der unterirdischen Gewässer" (Stuttgart, 1927). In the same year he also contributed the section on Anaspidacea to Kükenthal and Krumbach's "Handbuch de Zoologie". He was an authority on various groups of freshwater and subterranean Crustacea, especially harpacticids, bathynellids and isopods. His discovery, in 1942, of the true habitat of *Bathynella* and other minute animals that occur sporadically in wells, springs or caves opened a new field of investigation. Since then numerous new or little-known interstitial animals, freshwater and marine, have been discovered in many parts of the world. Many of the Crustacea, including a European species of Mystacocarida, were described by Chappuis and his collaborators and his last years in France were exceedingly productive ones.

In 1922 he married Heide Spinnler, of Basle; their son, Pierre, resides in Basle, and their daughter is married to an English architect.

ISABELLA GORDON

#### Dr. Gertrude L. Elles, M.B.E.

THE doyen of women geologists, Dr. Gertrude L. Elles, omeritus reader in the University of Cambridge and honorary Fellow of Newnham College, died at Helensburgh on November 18, in her eighty-ninth year. She entered Newnham as a scholar in 1891 and remained, with few interruptions, resident in Cambridge until a few weeks before her death.

She obtained first-class honours in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos (Geology) in 1895 and for the next few years was associated with Lapworth at Birmingham and with Törnquist and others in Sweden. This initiated the work on graptolites for which she is so widely known, and she soon com-

menced with Dame Ethel Shakespeare the preparation of the Palaeontographical Society's monograph on British graptolites under the editorship of Prof. Lapworth. The ten descriptive parts of this classic work appeared with extraordinary regularity between 1901 and 1914 and established her position as a world authority on these fossils. Of a dozen or so smaller publications on them, the most significant was her "Graptolite Faunas of the British Isles" (Geologists' Association, 1922), which has exercised a profound influence on subsequent work on their faunal succession and evolution.

Nevertheless, Dr. Elles's interest in fossils was pre-eminently that of the field geologist and stratigrapher, and, concurrently with her work on the graptolites, her investigations on Lower Palaeozoic stratigraphy in Wales and the Welsh Borderland resulted in several papers on the geology of areas around Ludlow, Conway, Bala and Bwlth. Relatively late in her career, she turned to a completely new field in 'hard-rock geology', and jointly with Prof. C. E. Tilley published a notable contribution on metamorphism in relation to structure in the Scottish Highlands.

Dr. Elles was closely associated with the Sedgwick Museum (or its forerunner, the Woodwardian Museum) for nearly seventy years. Her standing in the Department of Geology was formalized by her appointment, under the new statutes, to a University lectureship in 1926; ten years later, she became the first woman reader in the University. Few who have graduated in the Cambridge Department of Geology during this long period but were influenced by her enthusiasm as lecturer or supervisor; and many were drawn to Cambridge as postgraduate students to work under her direction. She inspired great affection among her colleagues, and as a teacher she will be remembered for her vitality, forthright manner and clarity of exposition.

She held the degree of doctor of science of Dublin and of Cambridge. When the Geological Society of London extended its fellowship to women in 1919, she was one of the small but distinguished group at once admitted, and she was in the same year the first woman to receive the Society's Murchison Medal. She was president of Section C (Geology) of the British Association in 1923.

O. M. B. BULMAN

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Royal Society :

### New Gold Medal

THE Council of the Royal Society has accepted an offer by the Trustees of the Leverhulme Trust Fund to mark the occasion of the Royal Society's Tercentenary by the award of a gold medal. Under the terms of the offer, the medal is "for award by the Society, every three years, to the individual who in the opinion of its Council shall have made the most significant contribution in the field of pure or applied chemistry or engineering including chemical engineering. The medal, which will be in gold, will be accompanied by a monetary award of five hundred pounds". The Council has made the first award of the medal to Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, who retired as president of the Royal Society on November 30, for his outstanding contributions to physical chemistry.

### Officers

SIR HOWARD FLOREY, president of the Royal Society, has appointed the following vice-presidents for the year ending November 30, 1961: Sir Alexander Fleck, treasurer of the Royal Society, formerly chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Sir Lindor Brown, biological secretary of the Royal Society, Waynflete professor of physiology in the University of Oxford; Sir William Hodge, physical secretary of the Royal Society, Lowndean professor of geometry and astronomy in the University of Cambridge; Sir Patrick Linstead, foreign secretary of the Royal Society, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Prof. T. M. Harris, professor of botany in the University of Reading; Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, professor of chemistry at University College, London.