working on an experiment at the Royal Institution, after his retirement from the Admiralty, to demonstrate that the basis of Einstein's theory of relativity was wrong. At the time of his death he was busy writing another book.

In 1898 he married Bessie Ingram Edwards, who died some years ago. They had one daughter, Eva, who died young, and an adopted son, Eric, who is married and lives in South America.

A. B. WOOD

Prof. A. H. Cox

THE death of Prof. A. Hubert Cox on February 14, 1961, will be sadly mourned by his many students dispersed all over the world and by geologists in Britain and in Canada. After graduating at the University of Birmingham as a chemist, he studied in Strasbourg where he carried out research work on benzenoid compounds and a great variety of other chemical problems.

During the First World War he became engaged on chemical work of great national importance which ultimately caused him to turn from chemistry to mineralogy and finally to stratigraphic and structural geology. Even prior to becoming professor of geology in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, he had carried out important research work on the Ordovician rocks of Wales. His enthusiasm and energy in tackling the difficult and unknown structure and petrology of Cader Idris became symbolic of his future interest in the geology of the Principality. His name will always be associated with the pioneering work that was done in the early part of this century on the older rocks

of Wales and, in particular, with the establishment of type-sections in Pembrokeshire. Conscious of the contribution which geology and geologists should make to industry, he devoted himself to the problems connected with the development of the coals of South Wales. He was among the first to apply geophysical methods to the determination of geological structures, and his use of resistivity measurements in the Coal Measures became the basis for a great deal of the modern work in this field of geophysics. He was among the first to illustrate how resistivity methods could be used to locate water-saturated strata in the Coal Measures and how those could be used in the development of the mines. His earlier training as a chemist made him singularly able to conduct investigations into the incidence of silicosis, as it was then called, among the miners of the South Wales coalfield. So tireless were his efforts to secure knowledge of the environmental factors concerning this disease among miners and so conscious was he of his duty as a scientist to the community, that his work became responsible for the complete revision of the pensions schemes for miners afflicted with pneumoconiosis.

Likewise, his contribution to the welfare and the development of the University College, Cardiff, will always be remembered and revered, and very specially by the many students entrusted to his care. Through many of these he was able to make profound contributions to the understanding of the structure of the Canadian Rockies and more especially to that of the Selkirk Mountains. His arduous work helped to establish the location of several important reserves of gold and silver and he can be said to have been among the pioneers of the scientific development of the mineral resources of Western Canada.

W. D. EVANS

NEWS and VIEWS

Director of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology: Dr. D. J. Urquhart

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research recently announced that Dr. D. J. Urquhart has been appointed the first director of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology at Boston Spa, Yorks. Dr. Urquhart was educated at Barnard Castle School and the University of Sheffield where he graduated in 1931 with an honours degree in physics. Afterwards he obtained a Ph.D. in the Metallurgical Faculty at Sheffield, and then he worked in the research department of a steel works. In 1938, Dr. Urquhart was appointed to the staff of the Science Museum Library. During the War he was at the Ministry of Supply, engaged mainly in the technical administration of armaments inspection. In 1948, he was transferred to the Information and Intelligence Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, where he was responsible for the reorganization of the Headquarters Library and Records and carried out a number of surveys of the use made of technical literature in different industrial centres. In November 1956 he became responsible for planning the National Lending Library. Since then he has been wholly concerned with the planning and creation of the new library, which has included the introduction of Britain's

Russian translating programme in co-operation with the National Science Foundation's programme in the United States. Dr. Urquhart writes frequently on library and technical information topics. In recent years he has made a number of notable contributions in this field, starting with a paper he read to the University and Research Section of the Library Association in January 1957 on the new National Lending Library. It was in this paper that Dr. Urquhart estimated the size and requirements of the National Lending Library, and forecast the huge growth of Chinese scientific literature in the future. He dealt with this subject again in a paper to the Library Association last year. In 1958, at the International Conference on Scientific Information in Washington, he reported the results of an interesting analysis of the pattern of borrowing from the Science Museum Library which has served to guide the acquisition policy of the National Lending Library.

Civil Engineering at Swansea:

Prof. O. C. Zienkiewicz

DR. O. C. ZIENKIEWICZ, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. B. G. Neal (see *Nature*, 188, 896; 1960) in the chair of civil engineering at the University College of Swansea, will bring to his new appointment experience of both British and American universities.