Dr. Sven Somme

SVEN SÖMME died on December 2, at the age of fifty-seven, at his home in Mölde, after a year of pain and illness which he bore with courage and cheerfulness. Norway has lost a biologist who made many valuable contributions to the knowledge of her freshwaters and fisheries. Indeed, it may be said that he, together with the late Prof. Knut Dahl, his colleague and friend, were the founders of freshwater biological research in their country.

Sven Sömme was a student at the University of Oslo in 1924, and in 1928 he became scientific assistant to Prof. Knut Dahl. During 1940–45 he was director of the State Fisheries School at Aukra. When there he worked with the 'Underground' for the Allies and was arrested by the Germans in 1944. He miraculously escaped from his captors, crossed the mountains, which he knew and loved so well, to Sweden, from which country he came to England. He returned to Norway in 1945, and from then until 1952 was inspector for the State Freshwater Fisheries and head of the Scientific Department; later he resigned this post and became a private consultant, in which capacity he remained until his death.

During Sömme's period of fishery work, from 1928 until he took up private practice, he published many papers in scientific journals, writing with equal felicity in Norwegian and English. He visited and studied in many countries, including Sweden, Great Britain, the United States and Alaska, and took an active part in international meetings. He was a recognized authority on fishery problems for he had a wide and varied academic experience, a wealth of knowledge about rivers and lakes, especially of Norway, a sound and patient judgment. His opinion was sought and appreciated by scientist and layman both in his own country and abroad.

Sven Sömme's enjoyment of life, his cheerfulness, energy and courage will long be remembered. He had many friends among all kinds of people and they will miss him sadly. WINIFRED E. FROST

NEWS and VIEWS

The Royal Irish Academy

AT a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin on March 16, Prof. J. L. Synge, director of the School of Theoretical Physics in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, was elected president. Prof. J. Doyle, Prof. J. J. Tierney, Prof. B. Ó Cuív and Mr. L. de Paor were re-elected as secretary, secretary of the polite literature and antiquities committee, secretary for Irish studies and executive secretary, respectively. Prof. J. Doyle was also elected secretary of the science committee, and Dr. V. C. Barry was elected treasurer. The following were elected honorary members: in the Section of Science, Sir Edward Appleton (Edinburgh), Jacques Hadamard (Paris); in the Section of Polite Literature and Antiquities, Gerhard Bersu (Frankfurt), Ernst Lewy (Dublin). Dr. D. A. Brown, Dr. R. G. S. Hudson, Dr. P. B. Kennedy, Mr. P. Lynch, Dr. F. S. L. Lyons, A. L. Metnieks and Colm Ó hEocha were elected members of the Academy.

Geological Society of London: Foreign Members

THE following have been elected Foreign Members of the Geological Society of London: General M. Collignon, chief palæontologist to the Service Géologique de Madagascar; Dr. G. A. Cooper, United States National Museum, Washington; Prof. D. Korzhinsky, head of the Department of Metasomatism and Metamorphism, I.G.E.M., U.S.S.R.; Prof. M. Ksiazkiewicz, head of the Department of Geology of the Jagellonian University, Krakow; Prof. H. Kuno, senior professor at the Faculty of Science, Tokyo; Dr. T. B. Nolan, director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington; Dr. K. A. Vlasov, director of the Laboratory for Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Crystallography, Moscow; Prof. E. Wenk, professor of mineralogy at the University of Basle.

Geology at Leeds: Prof. R. M. Shackleton

PROF. SHACKLETON, who has been appointed to a second chair in the Department of Geology, was educated at Sidcot School, Somerset, and the University of Liverpool, where he graduated with first-class honours in geology in 1930 and was awarded the Isaac Roberts Studentship. Three years later he was awarded his Ph.D. During 1932–34 he held a Beit Fellowship at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and in the following year became museum assistant there. In 1935 he was granted leave of absence to act as chief geologist to Whitehall Explorations, Ltd., in Fiji, and in 1936 returned to Imperial College for three years as assistant lecturer. During 1940–45 he was geologist to the Geological Survey of Kenya, and a year later returned there to survey the geology of an area where important finds of stone age tools had been made. He was also a member of the Royal Society Expedition established to study the geology of Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria, where pre-human fossil remains had been discovered. He returned to Imperial College in 1945 as lecturer and was later promoted to a senior lectureship. In 1948 he was appointed to the George Herdman chair of geology at the University of Liverpool, and in the same year went as visiting professor to the Fuad I University, Egypt. Prof. Shackleton has conducted research in many parts of the world. He is primarily interested in geological structures and the structural evolution of the Earth's crust. He has also been engaged in applied geological work, on gold mineralization in Fiji and Kenya, hydrogeology in Kenya, and on engineering geology on the dam sites of Navua, Fiji, and for the Corporation of Liverpool, at Tryweryn in Wales. Prof. Shackleton has taken part in a number of expeditions and international geological congresses and is the author of many articles relating to his research work.

Geography at Canterbury, New Zealand: Prof. R. S. Waters

MR. R. S. WATERS, at present lecturer in geography in the University of Exeter, has been appointed to the chair of geography in the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. After interrupting his studies at the University of Reading for war service with the Royal Air Force, Mr. Waters graduated in geography with first-class honours in 1948. As a research student in that University he began his work in the field of erosional geomorphol-