profound knowledge of the methods and the content of the German psychology of his day, which was to serve him as the basis for much of his later work. From Germany he moved to Harvard, where he completed his postgraduate studies under another eminent pioneer in experimental psychology, Raymond Dodge. Humphrey spent most of the next thirty years in North America, settling in 1924 in Canada as professor at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario. He helped with many of the applications of psychology during the Second World War, and from 1938 to 1944 was successively secretary and president of the Canadian Psychological Association. At Queen's, too, he wrote one of his most important works, *The Nature of Learning* (1933). The experimental demonstration of the phenomenon of habituation in snails, and the discussion of the fundamental importance in all organisms of learning not to respond to stimuli, was a notable contribution to the psychology of learning.

In 1947 Humphrey returned to Britain as first professor of psychology in the University of Oxford. He was then fifty-eight years of age, and it was a bold decision to undertake to establish a school of psychology in a university that had been conspicuously resistant to it. The present size and standing of the Oxford school is a tribute to the skill with which Humphrey laid the foundations. While at Oxford he completed his second major book, *Thinking: Its Experimental Psychology* (1951).

Humphrey retired in 1956 and moved to Cambridge, where he continued to write almost to the end of his life, his last book on *The Chemistry of Thinking*, written in collaboration with C. R. Coxon, appearing in 1963. Right up to the end he campaigned for the need to experiment in psychology. "When any branch of knowledge can experiment, it must experiment, or it will die a dreary death" he maintained in one of his last essays. And this applied, he believed, not only to the conventional field of experimental psychology, but to the more dangerous areas of social psychology.

L. S. HEARNshaw

Mr. H. W. Simmonds

MR. H. W. SIMMONDS died in Auckland, New Zealand, on March 16, 1966, at the age of eighty-nine.

He was born in Kent, but left England in 1902 to go to New Zealand. Throughout his life he was a devoted

lover and observer of Nature, his interests covering a wide field of natural history, though the study of insects was his main concern, particularly the biological control of insect pests.

In 1920 he joined the Colonial Service as Government Entomologist in Fiji, and it was during his period of Government service, from 1920 to 1937, that the greatest successes in biological control of insect pests and weeds in Fiji occurred. A team of entomologists—Tothill, Taylor and Paine—successfully controlled three serious pests which threatened the coconut-growing industry of Fiji. Simmonds worked in association with the team throughout, and, in the course of this work, travelled extensively in the South Pacific and the East Indies. One result of his travels was the publication of his bulletin on insect pests and diseases of the coconut palm in Melanesia and Southern Polynesia.

Undoubtedly the two successes in biological control for which Simmonds will be chiefly remembered by the people of Fiji are those which brought about control of the weed *Koster's Curse* and the insect housefly. In 1930 Simmonds brought back from Trinidad a thrips which was successful in controlling the weed. In 1938 he brought in a predatory beetle from Java which is said to have reduced formidable housefly populations to the reasonable level which exists to-day.

After retirement, Simmonds continued to work in the field of entomology, and in 1938 and 1945 made overseas trips on behalf of the Government of Western Samoa, seeking parasites of the coconut rhinoceros beetle, and in 1945 he introduced the parasite *Scolia ruficornis* to Samoa, where it is now well established. In 1963, when the coconut rhinoceros beetle was first discovered in Fiji, Simmonds joined the Coconut Pests and Diseases Board, with which organization he was still working at the time of his death, most of his time having been occupied with work on *Scolia ruficornis*, which is now established in Fiji.

Simmonds was a talented illustrator of insects, a student of mimicry in insects, an enthusiastic worker for Nature conservation and a devoted and gifted gardener and orchid-grower. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his services while employed by the Government and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Fiji Society in recognition of his work for Nature conservation and the establishment of nature reserves.

B. A. O'CONNOR

NEWS AND VIEWS

Theoretical Physics in the University of London:

Prof. R. K. Eisenschitz

PROF. R. K. EISENSCHITZ retires this year from the chair of theoretical physics in the University of London at Queen Mary College. He is well known for his contributions to statistical mechanics and the theory of liquids, made over a number of years at the Royal Institution under Sir William Bragg, at University College, London, under Prof. Andrade, and at Queen Mary College. His early career in Germany at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute was notable for his work with F. London on the quantum-mechanical calculation of van der Waals forces but, like many of the theoretical physicists who moved to Britain, he had begun as an experimenter and worked for a time in industry. In his theoretical studies Prof. Eisenschitz moved naturally from general problems in statistical mechanics and the theory of elastico-viscous properties of matter to the fundamental problems of liquid theory. In recent years he has paid special attention to Kirkwood's approach and to approaches implying ideas of collective motion. More recently he has studied properties of elec-

trons in liquid metals. Many of Prof. Eisenschitz's research students are now in important positions and owe much to his thorough and rigorous training. Before his appointment to Queen Mary College there was no theoretical research school in physics and no theoretical option for final-year undergraduate physicists; the new professor will find about a dozen students in each. Prof. Eisenschitz's many friends and colleagues at the College and in the University will miss his kindly interest and judgment.

Conservation Unchanged

THE British Nature Conservancy, now incorporated into the newly formed National Environment Research Council, seems not to be suffering from the association. The Research Council for the past year has been responsible for the Conservancy, the Geological Survey, the Institute of Oceanography and for research in fisheries and hydrology. Dr. Duncan Poore, the new director of the Conservancy, calls them "uneven bedfellows", but expects to gain from the association through co-operation on research with the other similarly oriented organiza-