As a result of the work on sulphapyridine, 2-aminopyridine has now become available in large quantities as an intermediate with a large potential value in the laboratory and in industry.

In 1924, Tchitchibabin published his work, "Fundamental Principles of Organic Chemistry" (translated into French); this work is dedicated to his only child, his daughter Natacha, who was tragically killed in an accident in a chemical factory. Tchitchibabin's wife, Vera Vladmirovna, was also a scientific worker. M. A. PHILLIPS

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Harry Roberts, well known as a writer on social medicine and related topics, on November 12, aged seventy-five.

Prof. F. M. Rowe, F.R.S., professor of colour chemistry and dyeing in the University of Leeds, on December 8, aged fifty-five.

Mr. J. D. Watson, formerly engineer to the Birmingham, Tame and Rea Drainage Board, and a past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on November 23, aged eighty-six.

NEWS and VIEWS

Plumian Chair in the University of Cambridge
Prof. H. Jeffreys, F.R.S.

PROF. HAROLD JEFFREYS, who has recently been elected to the Plumian professorship of astronomy and experimental philosophy in the University of Cambridge, in succession to the late Sir Arthur Eddington, is a theoretical geophysicist of world-wide repute. He has been a fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, since 1914, and a fellow of the Royal Society since 1925. During the First World War, and for several years afterwards, he was at the Meteorological Office, and following a period of some years as a lecturer at his own College he was appointed reader in geophysics in the University of Cambridge in 1931. He is perhaps best known as a seismologist, but as evidence of his versatility it may be mentioned that, in addition to gaining the Adams Prize in 1927, he has been awarded the Buchan Prize by the Royal Meteorological Society (1929), the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society (1937) and the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society (1939). He has written extensively on probability, notably in relation to significance tests, and an axiomatic exposition of the theory is set out in his book on the "Theory of Probability", to which his earlier book, "Scientific Inference", makes a suitable introduction. His books on Cartesian tensors and on operational methods have been a stimulus to the use of these techniques. The best-known work of Prof. Jeffreys is undoubtedly "The Earth", and it may fairly be said that this treatise, much of it his own researches, welded together a number of scattered topics into a coherent subject. It was indeed felicitous that he dedicated this work in 1924 to a former Plumian professor, Sir George Howard Darwin, "The Founder of Modern Geophysics".

Crystallography at University College, London
Dr. Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S.

A READERSHIP in crystallography has been established in association with the Department of Chemistry of University College, London, and Dr. Kathleen Lonsdale has been appointed to the post. This marks the first major step in the creation of a new university centre for the training of crystallographers and crystallographic research workers. Dr. Lonsdale, who received her university education at Bedford College, London, distinguishing herself in physics and mathematics, obtained her research training at the Royal Institution under the late Sir William Bragg, whose research assistant she eventually became. Except for two years as Amy Lady Tate Fellow in the University of Leeds, and for short periods covering the infancy of her children, Dr. Lonsdale has, since graduation, been associated with the Royal Institution, latterly as Dewar Fellow, and during the past twenty years as one of the most notable contributors to its distinguished record of research. She was one of the first two women to be elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society.

Dr. Lonsdale has taken a leading part in the development of modern experimental and mathematical methods in the X-ray analysis of crystals. She pioneered the determination of molecular structure by Fourier analysis of X-ray patterns, and was the first to establish the size and shape of the benzene ring in hexamethyl benzene and hexachlorobenzene. She took a leading part in the establishment of magnetic anisotropy and its molecular significance in aromatic crystals. She has shown how the thermal vibrations, and hence the elastic forces, in crystals can be investigated by means of the diffuse X-ray reflexions, which had not been previously understood. She has recently been developing the divergent beam method of X-ray analysis, and the study of crystal texture by that method.

Dr. Frans Verdoorn

THE first Mary Soper Pope Medal of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Michigan, has been awarded to Dr. Frans Verdoorn, editor of *Chronica Botanica*, in recognition of his editorial and international relations work in biology as well as for his researches in cryptogamic botany and the history of the plant sciences. Dr. Verdoorn, who was born in Amsterdam in 1906, went to the United States in 1940. He is managing editor of the Chronica Botanica Co., which publishes *Chronica Botanica*, "A New Series of Plant Science Books", and *Annales Cryptogamici et Phytopathologici*. He is also botanical secretary of the International Union of Biological Sciences and special adviser to the Netherlands Indies Department of Agriculture. His principal books are: "de Frullaniaceis" X–XVIII, "Manual of Bryology", "Manual of Pteridology", "Plants and Plant Science in Latin America", "Science and Scientists in the Netherlands Indies" (with P. Honig), and the "Index Botanicorum", a biographical dictionary of plant scientists, now in preparation in co-operation with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, with which Dr. Verdoorn has been connected since 1941. From 1947 onwards, Dr. Verdoorn will issue a monthly biological news-letter, *Biologia*, and an annual review of progress in international relations and co-operation in science, to be entitled *Pallas*.