

NEWS and VIEWS

Physiology at University College, Dundee: Prof. G. H. Bell

DR. GEORGE HOWARD BELL, who has been appointed to the chair of physiology in University College, Dundee, is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, where he had a distinguished career in both the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine, gaining the M.B. degree with honours in 1930 and, later, the higher degree of M.D., also with honours. For the thesis which he presented for the latter degree he was awarded a Bellahouston Gold Medal. After graduation, Dr. Bell spent a period in clinical appointments before entering upon an academic career in physiology, and he has always maintained a close interest in clinical problems. He gave a considerable amount of voluntary hospital service during the War. A year ago he was elected a fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Prof. Bell's career as a physiologist began with his appointment as an assistant in the Glasgow University Institute of Physiology. This assistantship was followed by a lectureship at the University of Bristol, after which he returned to Glasgow as senior lecturer in physiology. His research interests have been concerned in the main with problems in the physiology of parturition and of reproduction in general; with the significance of capillary fragility tests; and, most recently, with the effect of various factors on the physical strength of bone. Many of these studies are notable for, and indeed have depended for their success upon, the development of new techniques and on the design and construction of novel apparatus; and quite apart from strictly physiological research, Dr. Bell has issued many valuable papers on new and improved methods and apparatus, and on the application of nomograms to physiological and clinical calculations. His practical text-book on experimental physiology has gained acceptance not only in Glasgow but also in several other medical schools.

Physical Chemistry at Durham: Prof. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones

PROF. W. F. K. WYNNE-JONES, professor of chemistry at University College, Dundee, University of St. Andrews, has been appointed to the chair of physical chemistry at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, University of Durham, in succession to Prof. H. L. Riley (see *Nature*, Dec. 14, 1946, p. 867). Prof. Wynne-Jones is a D.Sc. of the University of Wales, having begun his academic career at University College, Aberystwyth; later he went to Oxford. He continued his chemical studies with Brønsted at Copenhagen, and spent some time with H. S. Taylor at Princeton University as a Leverhulme scholar. After having held appointments in the Universities of Bristol and Reading, he went, in 1938, to Dundee. During 1942-44, he took over the duties of head of the Chemistry Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough; and during the War he also supervised electro-chemical research work, which was carried out at University College, Dundee, for the Ministry of Supply. Prof. Wynne-Jones' main research work has been in the field of chemical kinetics. He has worked on acid-base catalytic reactions in solution, and on electrolytic dissociation processes. His work also includes studies in the role of solvent in reaction kinetic processes, and on the effect of isotope exchange on reaction-rates, particularly the exchange of deuterium and hydrogen.

American Awards for British Men of Science

DR. H. ROXBEE COX, director of the National Gas Turbine Establishment and chairman and managing director of Power Jets (Research and Development), Ltd., has been awarded the American Medal of Honour with Silver Palm for "meritorious service to the Government of the United States from September 1941 to September 1945, in connection with the development of turbo-jet and turbine aircraft engines. Dr. Roxbee Cox contributed to a great extent to the successful prosecution of this major war project by establishing and effectively administering an efficient system of technical collaboration between the British and U.S. Governments."

Dr. E. Talbot Paris, principal director of scientific research (defence) in the Ministry of Supply, has been awarded the American Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm for "meritorious service during the period of action in the field of scientific research development. As a physicist in the Ministry of Supply, he was responsible for the development of radar communications and other electronic equipment required for the ground forces of the British Army. He took an active part in establishing the interchange of scientific information with American laboratories, contributing substantially to the development of highly technical equipment."

Exhibition at the National Gallery

ON October 8 the National Gallery is re-opening a suite of six rooms, the first to be completely redecorated since the War. Many of the pictures to be shown in these have been re-framed. Nearly all will be shown without glass; though they will be protected by low barriers of silk cord. Fluorescent lighting is being installed in all the rooms. In one of them the walls will be covered with loose hangings of damask. These are all experiments towards the method of exhibition to be adopted in another suite of rooms, now half derelict, which is to be completely remodelled and air-conditioned. The pictures hung in five of the redecorated rooms will be the seventy which have been cleaned during the last ten years. In order of cleaning, they will begin and end with the two portraits of King Philip IV by Velázquez. In date they will range from the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries. The exhibition will show the cleaned pictures together for the first time, on clean backgrounds. Examined under these conditions, and with the help of a few demonstration pictures, 120 comparative photographs, X-radiographs, etc., and a catalogue giving the relevant facts, it will be possible to assess the correspondence on the subject which has appeared in the Press during recent months.

South African Science

THE first issue of the newly established monthly journal, *South African Science* (*Suid-Afrikaanse Wetenskap*), has just been published (Vol. 1, No. 1, August 1947). This is the bulletin of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science and is available free to members, but may be obtained also by non-members (15s. a year, including postage, Kelvin House, H/v Marshall and Hollard-straat, Johannesburg). The journal is similar to *Nature* in format and make up. There are two valuable main articles: "Scientific Research in South Africa", by Dr. B. F. J. Schonland, president of the South African Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and "The World View of the Physicist", by Prof.

H. H. Paine. Letters to the Editor and Notes and News are given reasonable space, and there is a further article, "The Control of Reverberation in Theatres and Concert Halls", by Prof. P. R. Kirby. An account of the Oudtshoorn meeting of the South African Association completes the number. The editor of *South African Science* is Dr. H. B. S. Cooke, of the Department of Geology, University of the Witwatersrand, who is to be congratulated on the first number of a journal which is clearly needed in such a rapidly developing area as South Africa.

The Indian Archives

The Indian Archives, the first number of which, dated January 1947, has just been received, is a welcome addition to periodical literature on documentation and to the specialist journals of India; its high quality is assured by the fact that it is published by the Imperial Record Department at New Delhi on behalf of the Indian Historical Records Commission. Since the establishment of the Imperial Record Department in 1891 and the Records Commission some thirty years later, much has been achieved, as reference to their many publications will show, in the collection and systematic classification, calendaring and indexing of the Government of India's extant records and in the technical work of their proper care and preservation. But much remains to be done. There are still many districts in India with an untold wealth of valuable archives in charge of unqualified keepers, and some Provinces and States without central record offices. India is not the only country that has in the past been indifferent to the value of its historical records. There, as elsewhere, healthy signs exist of an awakening of the public conscience, and the new journal is intended not only to stimulate this but also to serve as a clearing house for scientific knowledge on matters of archival interest and as an advice and information centre for Indian archivists. The editorial board proposes to print important articles on archival subjects from the foreign press as well as original contributions and papers dealing with India's special problems. This first number has a very interesting selection; it is well produced and will be well received by all concerned with archives and their keeping. It is to appear quarterly.

A New Mycological Periodical

THE well-known periodical *Annales Mycologici*, beginning in 1903, ended with its forty-second volume. The premises of the publisher were destroyed in an air attack in April 1945, and H. Sydow, the editor and founder of the journal, died in the following year. Dr. F. Petrak, the eminent mycologist of the Vienna Museum, has decided to re-start the journal with the title *Sydowia*. It will retain its international character and will appear twice a year, each number containing 12-15 sheets. The first number is to be published this year and will include some papers by Petrak which were contained in Nos. 3-6 of Vol. 42 of the *Annales*, the whole edition of which was destroyed. Mycologists are invited to send original articles for publication in English, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish. The price of each volume will be 40 Swiss francs. The publisher is Ferdinand Berger, Horn, Nied.-Österreich; the editor, Dr. F. Petrak, Botanische Abteilung des Naturhistorischen Museums, Vienna, Austria. British mycologists will wish Dr. Petrak success in his venture.

Chymia

THE great interest shown in the United States in the history of science is to find a further expression in the inauguration towards the end of this year of an annual publication on historical chemistry, entitled *Chymia*. It is anticipated that each volume will contain about a dozen articles of some four to five thousand words each, written in various languages and contributed by leading authorities from all over the world. It is appropriate that *Chymia* should be sponsored by the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection at the University of Pennsylvania, for it was in this University that the first American chair of chemistry was established in 1769, in the Colonial period, and filled by Benjamin Rush, one of Joseph Black's earliest pupils at Edinburgh. The editor-in-chief of *Chymia* is Prof. Tenney L. Davis, with a board of five other American editors and a group of consulting editors of international repute, representing, to date, the United States, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Holland, Germany, the Argentine, Brazil and China. The British contributors to the first volume are Prof. J. R. Partington, Prof. John Read and Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor. The secretary of the editorial board is Miss Eva V. Armstrong, curator of the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Publication in Britain will be undertaken by the Oxford University Press.

Summer School in Physical Chemistry at Cambridge

DESIGNED to bring industrial research into closer contact with academical research, an eight-day course of lectures and class work was opened in the Department of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge on August 16. The pressure of applications induced the organisers to accommodate 180 rather than the 100 applicants originally contemplated. An unexpectedly high number of representatives came from university colleges, technical colleges and schools. Many officers attended from the research departments of the Ministry of Supply, and some from the Services. The majority were drawn from industrial organisations, headed in by a group of twenty-six from various sections of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Prof. Norrish's inaugural lecture on the history of chemistry at Cambridge was followed by eighteen lectures given by him and his staff and devoted in equal numbers to molecular structure, its quantum interpretation, its optical investigation and its bearing on pure liquids and solutions; polymerization, oxidations, explosions, photochemical reactions and nuclear chain processes; the mechanism of friction, wear and lubrication, and the induction of chemical change by impact. The course was characterized by a friendly exchange of difficulties between those attending the school and those responsible for it, and by the variety of new experimental techniques available for trial. The final meeting was attended by the Vice-Chancellor and addressed by Mr. A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defence.

Libraries and their Use

SOME of the papers read at the week-end conference of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association held at Eastbourne in October 1946, which have now been issued as a separate reprint (Library Association, 68 Holloway Road, London, N.7. 5s.), although addressed