Guthnick's chief work lay in stellar photometry, and he was particularly successful in developing photo-electric methods, carrying out many pioneer investigations. He worked largely with stars of very small and irregular variations, but he also studied Mars and the satellites of Jupiter and Saturn. He applied photo-electric methods to measure the colour indices of stars, notably Nova Aquilæ 1918. His original and somewhat unorthodox outlook was reflected in theories that he put forward for several classes of variable stars.

He died in hospital in Berlin on September 6.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. A. T. Cameron, professor of biochemistry in the University of Manitoba, author of well-known text-books on biochemical studies, on September 25, aged sixty-five.

Prof. J. Masson Gulland, F.R.S., Sir Jesse Boot professor of chemistry in University College, Nottingham, on October 26, aged forty-nine.

Prof. F. E. Lloyd, emeritus professor of botany in McGill University, Montreal, aged seventy-nine.

NEWS and VIEWS

Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine, 1947: Prof. Bernardo A. Houssay, For.Mem.R.S.

ONE part of the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for 1947 has been awarded to Prof. Bernardo A. Houssay, recently professor of physiology in the University of Buenos Aires (see *Nature*, November 23, 1946, p. 739). Before Houssay took up his investigations on the influence of the pituitary gland on carbohydrate metabolism, it was confidently believed that the posterior part of the gland was thus concerned. More than twenty years ago, Houssay and his collaborators showed without question that the anterior portion of the gland is of importance in this connexion, and their demonstration that the dog from which both the pituitary gland and the pancreas were removed survived much longer than the animal from which the pancreas alone was removed was of outstanding importance in demonstrating that carbohydrate oxidation can occur in the complete absence of insulin. It thus became clear that insulin enhanced glucose utilization in the body, while anterior pituitary secretions inhibited it; and in keeping with this, Houssay and others were later able to show that extracts of the anterior lobe exert a diabetogenic action in the normal dog.

Prof. Carl F. Cori and Mrs. Cori

THE other part of the Nobel Prize has gone to Prof. Carl F. Cori and Dr. Gerty T. Cori, of the Washington University School of Medicine. Prof. and Mrs. Cori have pursued a line of investigation which has now to some extent merged with that of Houssay and his colleagues. The Coris have investigated for the past twenty years or so the changes undergone by the glucose molecule, and the enzymes responsible for the changes, in the processes of glycogen formation and breakdown in the animal body. In 1939 they were able to prepare for the first time an enzyme which catalysed the synthesis *in vitro* of a polysaccharide resembling starch and glycogen. More recently they have examined the action of the enzyme hexokinase, responsible for the phosphorylation in the body of glucose to glucose-6-phosphate at the expense of the conversion of adenosine triphosphate to adenosine diphosphate. The Coris have been able to show that anterior pituitary extract and insulin exert antagonistic actions on this enzyme system *in vitro*, anterior pituitary extracts depressing hexokinase activity, and insulin neutralizing this depression. This observation goes a long way to explain in terms of enzyme systems the action of some of the hormones the physiological investigation of which has been the pursuit of Houssay and his collaborators.

Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College: Prof. K. J. Franklin

BY the appointment of Dr. K. J. Franklin, acting director of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford, to the professorship of physiology in the University of London tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, Oxford loses a scholar who has served the University for many years, and 'Bart's' reclaims a former student. After serving in the R.F.A. in the First World War, Franklin went as a classical scholar to Hertford College, Oxford. He turned to biology and medicine, gaining the Welsh Memorial Prize for anatomical drawing in 1920, and first-class honours in animal physiology the following year. After a period as lecturer in Oxford and in London, he returned to Oxford in 1924 as fellow of Oriel and demonstrator in the Department of Pharmacology, but a year later was off again as a Radcliffe Travelling Fellow, which appointment he combined with an assistant professorship of physiology in the University of Michigan. He shared the Radcliffe Prize for research in 1933, and was dean of the Oxford Medical School from 1934 until 1938, and acting dean during the Second World War.

Apart from teaching, of which Franklin has done a great deal in Oxford (his pupils number more than a hundred), he divided most of his time between the experimental study of the circulation in general and veins in particular, and the history of medicine with particular reference to the circulation. In the latter studies Franklin's early classical training served him in good stead. When the Nuffield Institute of Medical Research was established in 1935, Franklin accompanied Prof. J. A. Gunn from the Department of Pharmacology as the Institute's assistant director. Here he turned his attention to the study of the circulation by cine-radiography, a technique which he studied under Janker in Bonn. In this work he collaborated with Dr. A. E. Barclay and the late Sir Joseph Barcroft; their studies of the fœtal circulation have already been published. More recently Dr. Trueta joined the team, and their study of the renal circulation has just been published by Basil Blackwell of Oxford. This work has provided a very useful technique that will no doubt be applied to other organs, and has also given important physiological information regarding the mechanism of the circulation. Since Prof. Gunn's retirement, Franklin has been acting director of the Institute. No doubt Franklin will continue similar studies in London when he is able to gather together the elaborate equipment needed. In the interval of doing this, we look forward to a continuation of his publications on the history of physiology.