

tributed to this branch of applied physics by papers on the circulation of the atmosphere, the formation of rain, the theory of the tides, etc. An outstanding piece of research in this field consisted in a series of precision measurements of gravity within the Simplon tunnel aiming at a determination of the shape of the 'geoid'. Although naturally his main activity was in the domain of 'classical' physics, he was nevertheless actively interested in the theory of relativity and in quantum theory, where he made an early attempt to give a representation of quantum phenomena in terms of a continuum theory.

It was a source of great satisfaction to Brillouin that the successor to his chair was one of his own sons, Léon Brillouin, who, carrying further the work of his father, has become one of our leading theoretical physicists.

R. FÜRTH

### Prof. Beatrice Edgell

THE death of Prof. Beatrice Edgell, professor emeritus in the University of London, takes from us one of the significant figures in the development of British psychology. Born in 1871, she was of the same generation as McDougall and C. S. Myers, with whom she collaborated in the pioneer work of the British Psychological Society and with whom she helped to establish the traditions on which the study of psychology is still based in British universities. Trained first in philosophy at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, she turned to experimental psychology and studied at Würzburg, where the use of experimental method was being developed in the study of the processes of thought and judgment. Throughout her life she combined her interests in philosophy and in experimental psychology, though with a special leaning to the latter, and from 1897 until 1933 she was head of the Department of Philosophy and Psychology at Bedford College in the University of London.

At a time when in many universities psychology was at best a subordinate partner of philosophy, her position as professor of psychology in charge of both subjects was unusual. The laboratory she established bears witness to her concern for exact and objective experimental method aided by the best material equipment then available. Her chief publications ("Theories of Memory" (1924), "Mental Life" (1926) and "Ethical Problems" (1929)) indicate the two sides of her interest, as does the fact of her contributing both to psychological journals and to the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*. Her example and influence thus aided the development of psychology in Britain as an independent experimental science which still retained the stabilizing effect of philosophical discipline. Her psychological interests centred largely on the cognitive aspect of mental experience, especially memory and perception, and she also paid particular attention to the experimental approach to aesthetics. As a teacher, however, she was stimulating over a wider range. "Ethical Problems" was written specially with the view of helping nurses, and her text-book, "Mental Life", was intended for students preparing for social work. Precise of mind and emphatic of utterance she was an excellent teacher, and she is held in affectionate respect by a large number of former students, many of whom are now engaged in psychological work applied to industry, education and various branches of social work.

In her retirement Prof. Edgell still occupied herself with psychology, including its newer developments. She was recently, for example, using the Rorschach test with critical appreciation. She continued to help students, and to take an active interest in the British Psychological Society, of which she was a past president and honorary fellow. During the War she wrote a history of the Society, part of which she read at the annual meeting of the Society in 1946. This was the first occasion on which many of her younger colleagues had met her, and they will remember her as they saw her then, frail, alert and indomitable.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Psychological Medicine in Glasgow:

Prof. T. Ferguson Rodger

DR. T. FERGUSON RODGER has been chosen as the first occupant of the newly founded chair of psychological medicine in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Rodger graduated in science and medicine at Glasgow in 1927-29 and holds the diploma in psychological medicine of the University of London. During 1931-32 he worked at Johns Hopkins University, where he was a pupil of Adolf Meyer. From 1933 until 1939 he was senior assistant at Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital (Gartnavel), and an assistant to the lecturer in psychiatry in the University. Throughout the War he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as consulting psychiatrist at Headquarters, Land Forces, South-East Asia, and at General Headquarters, India. Latterly, he has been a commissioner of the General Board of Control (which functions under the Lunacy, Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts). Dr. Rodger has specialized in psychosomatic medicine. He was responsible for research into the methods of

selecting officers for the army. He has also published work on fibrositis and on night-blindness.

### Pathology in Glasgow:

Prof. G. L. Montgomery

GEORGE LIGHTBODY MONTGOMERY has been appointed to the St. Mungo-Notman chair of pathology (associated with the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow) in succession to Prof. John W. S. Blacklock, who has moved to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Prof. Montgomery graduated at Glasgow (M.B., Ch.B., 1928; M.D., 1946), and also holds the Ph.D. degree of the University of St. Andrews (1936). After holding appointments at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, in 1931 he became lecturer in clinical pathology at St. Andrews and assistant pathologist at Dundee Royal Infirmary. Since 1937 he has been Gardiner research lecturer in the pathology of disease in infancy and childhood in the University of Glasgow, and pathologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill. During almost the whole of the