

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



War he served on the Directorate of Pathology at home, in the Central Mediterranean and in South-East Asia. His researches include work on the renal function in various morbid states, on diseases of childhood (with special reference to non-tubercular infections of the lung), and on the healing of lung injuries. He has recently taken part in the trials of streptomycin carried out by the Medical Research Council.

### Victor Meyer (1848-97)

AMONG the many eminent German chemists of the latter half of last century, none enjoyed a higher reputation than Victor Meyer, who entered the University of Heidelberg in 1865 at the age of seventeen and, twenty-four years later, was chosen to succeed his old master Bunsen in the chair of chemistry there. Meyer was born at Berlin on September 8, 1848, being the son of a Jewish calico manufacturer. His home influences had tended towards the literary and artistic rather than the scientific, and Meyer, it is said, wished to become an actor, for which he had all the natural gifts. At Heidelberg, however, he came under the spell of Kopp, Kirchhoff, Helmholtz and Bunsen, and after a time became assistant to the last. From Heidelberg he went to Berlin to work under Baeyer, and successively held posts at Stuttgart, Zurich and Göttingen, before returning to his *alma mater*. With a fine voice, handsome presence and impressive manner, he became known as one of the best lecturers in Germany. With his other gifts he combined a passion for work, and was responsible for some three hundred memoirs. His most important investigations are referred to in the Memorial Lecture on Meyer delivered to the Chemical Society on February 8, 1900, by Sir Edward Thorpe, who had known him for thirty years. Unfortunately, his great mental activity brought on insomnia and he had several spells of ill-health. His death took place on August 8, 1897, when he was but forty-eight years of age. He had received many honours from scientific societies, and among these was a Royal Medal from the Royal Society awarded him two years after he had succeeded Bunsen.

### Dedication of Private Woodlands

IN the Forestry Commission Booklet No. 2 (H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1948) the purpose of the scheme for the dedication of private woodlands is explained. This purpose is to encourage the application of systematic management to private woodlands, become necessary, it is said, in the interests of national security because the reserves of standing timber have been greatly depleted during and since the War; and it might be added are still suffering from more or less crude over-felling, especially in the hardwood areas. Under the scheme the owner undertakes to use the land in such a way that timber production is the main object; to work to a plan to be approved by the Forestry Commission; to employ skilled supervision, and to keep adequate accounts. The object of the scheme is to ensure that replanting or regeneration of woodlands cut during the War shall proceed with continuity and rapidity, that this work in its young stages must be looked after until the young woods are established and, it is to be proposed, after that stage has been reached. Owners must make up their minds as to whether they are prepared to work the scheme; if they agree, they will receive State financial assistance. If the owner is unwilling to join the scheme or keep his

woodland areas in proper order, the State will acquire them. Finally, some system of control of the sylviculture of private woodlands is deemed necessary.

To give effect to the scheme a deed of covenant in England and Wales and an agreement in Scotland will be entered into by which both the State and the owner undertake respective obligations as already mentioned. The Forestry Commission, as the agent of Government, will undertake to provide financial assistance to the owner on one of these bases at the owner's option: (1) To repay to the owner 25 per cent of the approved net annual expenditure on a dedicated woodland by way of loans which are described in the pamphlet. (2) To make payment to the owner as follows: (a) a planting grant of £10 per annum for every acre planted or replanted, softwood or hardwood, after date of dedication; (b) loans in addition to (a) on terms to be settled according to individual circumstances, the terms being given in the pamphlet; (c) a maintenance grant for fifteen years of 3s. 4d. per acre per annum on every acre dedicated that is planted properly and maintained; (d) a maintenance grant for fifteen years of 3s. 4d. per acre per annum from the date of dedication, on all productive woodlands other than new plantations covered already by (c) and (d). These grants will be reviewed and revised as may be necessary after five years from 1946-47 on the basis of ascertained costs. Dedication will run with the land and will not be affected by change in ownership.

### New German Hydrographic Journal

WITH the first issue of the *Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift* (1, No. 1, January, 1948), to the forthcoming appearance of which reference was made in *Nature* of August 16, 1947, p. 219, the publication of post-war articles by German oceanographers and other marine scientists and technicians commences. The first paper, by K. Kalle, deals with the problem of marine production and reviews research material and methods of investigation. Kalle compares the probable amount of marine production with the yields known from continental soils of the temperate zones. W. Hansen in the second article gives a general mathematical treatment of the oscillations of inertia in open and land-locked seas. The old nautical problem of the dip of the horizon is attacked once more theoretically, by H. Chr. Freiesleben. He derives a formula which, in order to be strictly employed, demands measurements of the air-temperature at the horizon immediately above the sea-surface. Another short but interesting contribution, by F. Errulat, describes a series of measurements of the earth-magnetic field on the Dacia Bank (between Madeira and Morocco); he concludes that the Bank has a core of eruptive rocks. The field of nautical technique is represented by a description of a direction-holder named "Polkreisel", by P. Christoph. Moreover, there is an article on the German Hydrographic Institute, its origin, its tasks, and its organisation by the director, Dr. Böhnecke, and finally there are obituary notes on several notable German scientists who had worked on nautical science and on oceanography. In the next issue (No. 2/3) of the *Zeitschrift*, which was expected to be distributed in the beginning of August 1948, there is to be (with other papers) articles on the bottom geology of the southern and middle Baltic, on a fundamental geodetic problem in sea-surveying, on magnetic storms, and on resonance oscillations of bights and the mouth correction for seiches.