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Physical Chemistry at Manchester :

Prof. M. G. Evans, F.R.S.

PROF. M. G. EVANS goes from Leeds to Manchester this month to succeed his former teacher and collaborator, Prof. M. Polanyi, in the chair of physical chemistry. In 1939 he was appointed to the chair of physical chemistry in the University of Leeds, made vacant by the death of Prof. H. M. Dawson, and in 1945, when Prof. R. W. Whytlaw-Gray retired and the Departments of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry were fused, he became the senior professor in the combined department (see *Nature*, 156, 386; 1945). Immediately on appointment to Leeds, Prof. Evans found himself confronted with all the problems of adapting the work of an important teaching and research school to war-time conditions; but not content merely to keep an efficient department going, he laid the foundations for the great developments which have since taken place. His infectious enthusiasm for his subject has been as effective in teaching as in research, and the inspiring originality which he brought to bear on the organisation and conduct of the teaching of inorganic and physical chemistry in Leeds will long continue to exert its influence there.

Prof. Evans' researches in many fields of physical chemistry were recognized by his election to the Royal Society in 1946. While in Leeds he has contributed largely to the knowledge of the reactions of free radicals in aqueous solution, with special reference to polymerization reactions. His work has been characterized by a particularly happy combination of experiment and theory, and his theoretical work on the energetics and kinetics of free radical and polymerization reactions has been especially noteworthy. He has also made important contributions to the study of oxidation-reduction reactions and of diffusion problems. During the War Prof. Evans played a leading part in planning and carrying out investigations on chemical defence problems. His activities ranged over a wide field, and whether in committee work, in theoretical discussions or in practical breathing tests in toxic clouds, he did not spare himself. During the past nine years, Prof. Evans has given unstinting service to the University of Leeds as a whole. His transference to Manchester will be felt not only in the Council, Senate and lesser bodies at Leeds, but also by many of his colleagues who have been accustomed to rely on his wisdom, good judgment and human sympathy for help in a variety of matters often very remote from chemistry.

Mining at Birmingham :

Prof. S. G. Ward

PROF. STACEY G. WARD has accepted the invitation of the Council of the University of Birmingham to the chair of Mining and to become director of the Mining Department; he is relinquishing the chair of chemical engineering which he has held since 1946. Prof. Ward obtained his fundamental scientific and engineering education in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and carried out research in pure chemistry before transferring to research on coal. He has been intimately connected with the mining industry since 1930, when he joined the Powell Duffryn Company. For three years prior to appointment in 1937 to the staff of the Mining Department at the University of Birmingham, he was field research and liaison officer to the British

Iron and Steel Federation. He was acting professor of mining from 1943 until the appointment of Prof. T. David Jones in 1947, and, at the request of the Faculty of Science, became acting head of the Department after Prof. Jones' death in that year.

It is intended to expand the Department of Mining at Birmingham, which includes coal mining, coal preparation and treatment, metalliferous mining and mineral dressing, not only on the teaching side but also, and particularly, in connexion with research. Special attention will be paid to teaching fundamental subjects and principles involved in mining, and it is hoped to reserve time in the course for liberal studies. The research work will be expanded, in the first place, on that now in progress on fundamental problems of ventilation, drilling, mine lighting, mineral dressing, coal constitution, spontaneous combustion and coal cleaning (on which Prof. Ward has had a team working for some time). Special post-graduate courses for those who have had industrial experience will be introduced. The reorganised Department will eventually be accommodated in new buildings and laboratories which have already been planned but for which building permits cannot yet be obtained.

Physiology at Liverpool :

Prof. R. A. Gregory

DR. R. A. GREGORY, who has recently been appointed to the Holt Chair of physiology in the University of Liverpool, is an honours graduate in physiology of the University of London (University College). While at University College he held the Bayliss-Stirling Memorial and Sharpey Scholarships, and received College and University awards. His work up to that time had been on biochemical problems of carbohydrate metabolism, the circulation, with particular reference to the metabolism of the heart, and the resistance of the body to hot environments. In 1939 he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, spending most of his time in A. C. Ivy's laboratory in Chicago, where he became interested in problems of the gastro-intestinal tract. On his return to Great Britain, the surgical technique he had acquired enabled him to make valuable contributions to one of the war-time research projects fostered by the Ministry of Supply. After the War, during which he held the post of lecturer at University College, he was appointed senior lecturer in the University of Liverpool and resumed his work on the fundamental physiology of digestion. In addition to numerous papers in physiological journals, he has contributed chapters to Wright's "Veterinary Anaesthesia" and Winton and Bayliss' "Human Physiology". Prof. Gregory succeeds Prof. W. H. Newton, who has been appointed to the chair of physiology at Edinburgh.

Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories :

Dr. S. Smith

DR. SYDNEY SMITH, who recently retired from his appointment as director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, will retain a connexion with the Wellcome Foundation, Ltd., as consultant. Dr. Smith joined the staff of the Wellcome Chemical Works at Dartford in 1914 and served for many years as head of the experimental laboratories. He initiated and developed many important technical processes, and in pure research became well known for his discovery of digoxin. He became works manager in 1936, and in the following year was appointed a director of the Wellcome Foundation,