

working below 1° K. which had been established in Oxford by 1939. When the War came he joined the Admiralty research team at Oxford, and in 1941 designed and constructed what was probably the first continuous-wave oscillator in the millimetre region. As the War progressed he became more and more occupied with the training of physicists, who were required in ever-growing numbers. His very considerable administrative abilities now became apparent, both in the organisation of teaching and elsewhere in the Laboratory. In 1944 he spent a term as a visiting professor at Harvard University, assisting in the U.S. Navy's radio training scheme, and in the same year he was elected a fellow of Brasenose College. In 1948 he became a member of the General Board of the Faculties and was soon an accepted and vigorous representative of the science faculties.

Any problem Hull took up was considered long and deeply. When his mind was made up, he would speak it even though it meant saying the difficult

and unpopular thing. Something of this same deliberate quality was the secret of his success as a teacher and a man of science. He would never willingly accept a partial solution. Many brought their problems to him and found him very generous of time and trouble in helping them. Above all was his sincerity and reliability: what he said, he meant, and what he promised, he did.

Though perhaps too reserved for more than a few to know him intimately, he found many friends not only in the learned faculties but also in a wide range of University life from the hockey field to the Bach Choir and the Music Club. An experienced mountaineer and an expert photographer, he was never happier than when among the hills either in Britain or in the Alps. Even on the wettest and coldest of days, it was always good fun to be with him there.

In 1937 Hull married Miss Judith Moore, like himself a research worker in the Clarendon Laboratory. She died in 1943. They leave one daughter.

J. WILKS

NEWS and VIEWS

Pituitary Adrenocorticotropin: Research at Cambridge

THE hormone of the anterior pituitary lobe has excited great interest over the past twenty-five years, and although results of the greatest theoretical significance have accrued from the large amount of research carried out on this subject, little of practical importance has developed therefrom until recently. Within the past year, interest has been particularly directed to the adrenocorticotropic hormone of the anterior pituitary gland for two reasons. First, as would be expected from the action of cortisone, adrenocorticotropin is effective in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Secondly, Li and others have shown that the biological activity of adrenocorticotropin can be retained during the degradation of this protein hormone to a moderately sized peptide. The synthesis of such a peptide, the activity of which would be of the greatest interest in practical medicine, is therefore within the realm of possibility.

The Nuffield Foundation, whose support of research on rheumatism is of many years standing, has not been slow to realize the significance of this position, and the Trustees have recently made an offer to the University of Cambridge, which has been accepted, to provide a grant of £11,000, spread over three years, to support research on adrenocorticotropin in the School of Biochemistry under the direction of Prof. F. G. Young. For the past fifteen years, Prof. Young has been pursuing research on the relationship of anterior pituitary hormones to metabolic processes with particular reference to diabetes, and has recently identified one diabetogenic pituitary substance with the growth hormone. As has been demonstrated in the United States by Li, Conn and others, pituitary adrenocorticotropic hormone can also be diabetogenic in some species. In Great Britain, however, research of this type has always been hampered by the poor supply of active material, and with the support of the Nuffield Foundation Prof. Young will be able to prepare substantial quantities of adrenocorticotropic hormone, and to pursue investigations, which would otherwise not have been possible, on the structure of the hormone itself and of derived pep-

tides. The hope that this work may provide a basis for an attack on the synthesis of active substances is a real one, and in this aspect of the work Prof. A. R. Todd and his staff, in the University Chemical Laboratories at Cambridge, are prepared to collaborate with Prof. Young and his team, also with the support of the Nuffield Foundation.

Trotter and Paterson Memorial Lectures of the Illuminating Engineering Society

THE Council of the Illuminating Engineering Society is raising a fund to provide for public lectures in memory of the late Mr. A. P. Trotter and the late Sir Clifford Paterson. It has been suggested that the money should be contributed in small sums from the whole membership of the Society, and that the interest on the capital be used to provide fees for the lecturers. The cost of the meetings and of the publication of the lectures in the *Transactions* of the Society will be borne by the Society out of its general income. The lectures will be given alternately as the Trotter Memorial and the Paterson Memorial at intervals which will depend on the response to this appeal, and they will take place, in the first instance, in London and will be repeated in the Provinces, if appropriate. The subjects of the first few lectures will be related to the particular interests of Mr. Trotter and of Sir Clifford Paterson; but later lectures will be of a more general character, dealing with pioneer work or with some broad review of developments or knowledge.

Mr. Trotter's association with lighting was unique (see *Nature*, 160, 390; 1947). More than sixty years ago he was a pioneer in photometry, public lighting and vision under conditions of low illumination, and as president of the Society during the First World War he paved the way for collaboration between the lighting industry and the Government. In the Board of Trade he contributed largely to the Electricity Regulations, and as editor of the *Electrician* he had a considerable influence on the growth of the industry. Sir Clifford Paterson also made a very personal contribution to the science and industry of illumination (see *Nature*, 162, 325; 1948). His connexion with