

6/- NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at King's College, London:

Prof. A. J. Allmand, F.R.S.

PROF. A. J. ALLMAND, whose retirement from the Daniell chair of chemistry at King's College, London, at the end of the session 1949-50 has been announced, was born in 1885 and began his studies at the University of Liverpool. Graduating in 1905, he obtained his D.Sc. in 1910, and continued his research work as an 1851 Exhibition research scholar, with F. Haber at Karlsruhe during 1910-11 and with R. Luther at Dresden the following year. He was appointed assistant lecturer at Liverpool in 1913. Joining the Army early in 1915, Prof. Allmand went on active service to France in the summer of that year, but owing to a fortunate chance was transferred to the Gas Services in the autumn. He became chemical adviser to the Fourth Army (1916-18) and to the Second Army (1918-19), obtaining the M.C. in 1916. In 1919 he was elected to the second chair of chemistry at King's College, London, succeeding to the Daniell Chair in 1938, on the retirement of Prof. S. Smiles. In recent years he has seen important additions to the accommodation for chemical research at King's College. Prof. Allmand's researches have included many important contributions to photochemistry, electrochemistry, adsorption of gases by solids, and the structure of electrodeposited alloys. His well-known book on the "Principles of Applied Chemistry" appeared in 1912, and a second edition with Dr. H. J. T. Ellingham in 1924. Prof. Allmand was elected to the Royal Society in 1929, and has served on the Council (1936-37). He was president of the Faraday Society during 1947-48. During the Second World War he did not leave London, but worked at King's College on special war research for the Ministry of Supply (and also Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.). During August 1944-December 1945 he was superintendent of explosives research in the Armaments Research Department. In 1920 he married a French lady, Mlle. Malicorne, by whom he has had three children; one boy, Michael, was killed on active service during the War and won the V.C.

Prof. D. H. Hey

PROF. D. H. HEY, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Allmand, was born in 1904 and, after eight years at Magdalen College School, Oxford, spent the period 1923-28 as a student at University College, Swansea. In the latter year, he joined the staff of the Chemistry Department of the University of Manchester, where he stayed for ten years. During 1939-41 he taught at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and then until 1945 he was engaged in industrial research. Since 1945 Prof. Hey has held the second chair of chemistry at King's College, London. His degrees include those of M.Sc. (Wales), Ph.D. (London) and D.Sc. (Manchester). He has been an honorary secretary of the Chemical Society since 1946, and is a member of the Chemical Council. He has also served on the council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Prof. Hey's numerous publications have appeared chiefly in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*. Many of them deal with the chemistry of diphenyl and triphenyl derivatives, and with the aryl pyridines. Prof. Hey has also been interested in chemotherapy. In particular, he is well known for his theory of the important part played, in organic reactions in liquid media, by free radicals of

short life, a theory which arose out of his own work on diazo-compounds and peroxides.

Zoology in the University of Liverpool:

Prof. J. H. Orton, F.R.S.

THE retirement of Prof. J. H. Orton from the Derby chair of zoology in the University of Liverpool is announced. Prof. Orton has had a distinguished zoological career and is the doyen of marine biologists in Great Britain. He was on the staff of the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association from 1910 until 1929, when he was appointed to Liverpool. Before the First World War he had already done pioneer research on the ciliary feeding mechanisms of marine animals and on temperature in relation to breeding. After his return from war service, he devoted most of his attention to the biology of molluscs, more especially the oyster, on which he became a foremost authority. While at Plymouth he conducted for many years the Easter courses for university students, and many biologists will remember with gratitude his enthusiastic and inspiring encouragement in their student days. In recent years his influence has been very noticeable in the Liverpool area, especially in much ecological work which is being done on the shores of the Isle of Man and the surrounding waters. His wide knowledge of the biology of marine organisms, and especially of the British marine fauna, makes Prof. Orton a much valued member of the zoological community. All will therefore wish that he may be able to continue his researches for many years during his retirement.

Dr. R. J. Pumphrey

DR. R. J. PUMPHREY, who succeeds Prof. Orton, has for many years been associated with or on the staff of the Zoological Department at Cambridge. Going into residence in 1925 and winning the Frank Smart Prize in 1929, he has held an unusually wide range of distinguished research appointments, including Rockefeller and Beit fellowships. Since 1946 he has been an assistant director of research and as such primarily concerned with problems of sensory physiology. He is best known for his outstanding contributions to our knowledge of the auditory and visual functions in lower organisms. Much of this work involves a highly specialized and biophysical approach; but the outstanding feature of its results is the extent to which they provide a much clearer and more convincing picture of the role of the sense organs in the everyday life of the organisms. This combination of intellectual acuity and wide-angled vision augurs well for the future of his new Department. Dr. Pumphrey is unusually well equipped to deal with the relationship of university departments to the teaching of biology in schools, for he has played a very active part in framing the syllabuses now in force for school and higher certificate examinations; with a colleague, at Manchester, not uninterested in such matters, there is little fear of undue stagnation.

For many years the Zoological Department at Liverpool has been associated with marine biology, a field which has the good fortune to place little, if any, financial strain on university departments as such; the specialized accommodation and expensive equipment necessary for experimental research has to be provided from university funds. It will be interesting to see how quickly the well-deserved sympathy of the University Grants Committee will be able to provide the legitimate needs of a new and very vigorous professor.