

ber him as much as an inspirer and encourager of others as for his own technical achievements. A wide circle of colleagues who regret the passing of one who earned their respect and affection will extend their sympathy to his widow and children.

#### Dr. A. L. Green

WE regret to report that Dr. Alfred Leonard Green, who was officer in charge of the Ionospheric Prediction Service of the Commonwealth Observatory, Mount Stromlo, Canberra, died in Sydney on August 29, after a trying illness. Dr. Green was born in 1905 in London and educated at Bancrofts School, Essex, from which he proceeded to King's College, University of London. In 1927 he became assistant to Sir Edward Appleton, and was engaged on investigations on the ionosphere, and in 1930 he joined the staff of the Radio Research Board in Sydney. He at once

made an investigation of the polarization of down-coming waves in the southern hemisphere and found that it was opposite to that in the northern, thus carrying out a crucial test of the magneto-ionic theory. Dr. Green continued with the Radio Research Board, for which he conducted a number of important investigations, until 1935, when he joined Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Ltd., becoming chief of the Research Laboratories. In 1947 he became officer in charge of the Ionospheric Prediction Service at the Commonwealth Observatory, and introduced considerable improvement into the methods of forecasting. He was about to organize a programme of experimental work in the various ionospheric stations operated by the Service, the staff of which he had recruited, when he was incapacitated by his last illness. Green was a Ph.D. and later D.Sc. of the University of London. He is survived by a widow.

R. V. D. R. WOOLLEY

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1951:

#### Dr. Max Theiler

DR. MAX THEILER, who has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1951, was born in South Africa in 1899, a son of Sir Arnold Theiler, whose work in veterinary problems in Africa is widely recognized. Dr. Max Theiler received his medical education at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and graduated in 1919. Upon completion of a course at the London School of Tropical Medicine, he accepted a post at Harvard University in the Department of Tropical Medicine, where his work ultimately led to the demonstration of the susceptibility of white mice to intra-cerebral inoculation of yellow fever virus. This made possible for the first time work with yellow fever virus in a small and inexpensive animal. Dr. Theiler eventually developed the mouse protection test which has become one of the principal tools in yellow fever epidemiology. It was after Dr. Theiler had moved to the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York that the historic discovery of the innocuous nature of the 17 D sub-culture of the well-known Asibi strain of yellow fever virus was made. This is the strain which served for the major portion of the millions of yellow fever immunizations given during the past decade. If further evidence of Max Theiler's careful workmanship is necessary, this is furnished by his discovery of the interesting murine encephalomyelitis virus which bears his name.

Dr. Theiler is certainly one of the most modest of men. He rarely attends scientific meetings, despite an extremely affable and friendly nature, and in his laboratory he seldom presents a picture of the intensity which is customarily expected of the scientific investigator. This easy-going approach to his work, however, disguises very effectively the enormous amount of thinking which lies behind each and every one of his experiments. He is most characteristically found sitting at ease in his laboratory, examining and re-examining the results of the experiments being conducted by his team of very competent technicians, whom he has himself trained. While he will no doubt be greatly pleased by the award of the Nobel Prize, it is unlikely that the very human Max Theiler will be changed one whit by it.

### Grande Médaille Osmond: Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, F.R.S.

ON October 26, during the autumn conference of the Société Française de Métallurgie, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade was presented with the Grande Médaille Osmond, a premier award in the field of metallurgical science. This honour was instituted in 1949 on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the birth of Floris Osmond, a pioneer in metallography, and is awarded—to translate literally the conditions laid down—“without condition of nationality, in principle every two years, to a metallographer whose scientific works have had important consequences for metallurgy and the study of metals, so as to constitute a crowning award to work judged of first importance in metallurgical science”. The first award was made to the distinguished Swedish man of science, Prof. Carl Benedicks. Present-day knowledge of deformation processes in metals owes much to the painstaking work and penetrating observations of Prof. Andrade. His early experiments on the creep of metals led to the relationship now generally known as the ‘Andrade creep law’, and to the recognition of the fact that at least two physically distinguishable processes play a part in creep phenomena. He was among the earliest investigators to prepare single crystals of metals and study their deformation. Characteristically, he devised methods for the preparation of the more difficult materials and elucidated their modes of deformation. The methods he devised, both for preparation and testing of the materials, have found widespread use in laboratories all over the world. More recently, his work has established the importance of the role of the surface in the mechanical behaviour of both polycrystalline and monocrystalline metals. Already, as with many other phenomena to which he first directed attention, these observations have been pursued by other workers with fruitful results. This work, for which the Médaille Osmond has been awarded, constitutes, of course, but a part of Prof. Andrade's contributions to science as a whole; his original work has ranged over the whole field of physics, while he has yet found time to interpret science to the layman and make significant contributions to the literature of the history of science.