

produced at the Abbey Theatre nearly twenty years ago. He was an accomplished pianist and organist, and had an extensive knowledge of music.

One of the fascinations of knowing Fearon was the frequency with which, even after years of close friendship, one discovered new interests of his: a large stamp collection, to which he added regularly; his flair for cars, both vintage and modern sports—his own collection had included a Lancia, a Bentley and a Rolls; his real appreciation of the musical comedies of the early part of this century. In the same way, one learned with surprise, in 1943, that he was a candidate for a seat in the Senate of the

Irish Parliament as a representative of the University of Dublin, for one had never been aware of his interest in matters political. Yet he continued to hold his seat to the end, and his colleagues in the Upper Chamber often expressed a high regard for him as a member.

William Fearon was a man of great gentleness of character but one who did not encourage intimacy, and not many of his friends knew him really well. Nevertheless, his passing will leave many gaps. He will be missed in the College Common Room and in his clubs as in the class-room and in the Senate chamber.

W. J. E. JESSOP

NEWS and VIEWS

Experimental Physics at Liverpool:

Prof. J. M. Cassels, F.R.S.

PROF. J. M. CASSELS, who has retired from the chair of physics in the University of Liverpool, joined the staff as a lecturer in 1952. In 1955 he was promoted to senior lecturer and in 1956 was appointed to the professorship of experimental physics which had been instituted a few years before but had remained vacant. He had gone to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment as a research fellow in 1949 on completing his Ph.D. at Cambridge having previously done some war work there. At Harwell, he joined the research group working on the new 170-MeV. synchrocyclotron and played a leading part in the experimental programme on p - p and n - p interactions. He transferred to Liverpool to work with the higher energy (380 MeV.) Liverpool cyclotron, which came into full operation at the end of 1954. Largely because of Cassels's foresight, they had a full experimental programme ready to go, and this has continued at a steady pace ever since. Cassels ran a small group of his own, and his name is on many of the laboratory's papers, especially some concerned with pion interactions. But his influence went far beyond his own group, and inspired much of the high-energy work of the laboratory. His strength is both in experimental techniques and in his grasp of theory. He is also an enthusiastic teacher, and a very fine lecturer. He resigned his post to take up, in the autumn of 1959, a visiting professorship in Cornell University, where he will be able to continue his work on high-energy nuclear physics. In 1959 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. A. W. Merrison

DR. MERRISON, who has been appointed as Prof. Cassels's successor, was educated at King's College, London, and after taking a degree went to work on centimetric radar at the Signals Research Development Establishment. In 1946 he transferred to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, and worked on various aspects of neutron spectroscopy in the Nuclear Physics Division. He was appointed as lecturer in the University of Liverpool in 1951 and transferred to the research appointment known as the Leverhulme lectureship in 1954. He became a group leader on work with the large 380 MeV. synchrocyclotron and published several important papers on pion physics. In the spring of 1957 he was appointed to a staff post at CERN, the international high-energy laboratory at Geneva.

There he worked with the 680-MeV. synchrocyclotron which started work shortly after. One of the results of his team, the discovery of the rare mode of decay of a pion directly into an electron instead of through the normal muon, is considered as of exceptional importance in confirming the theorists' general conception of these particles. Recently, Merrison has been concerned with arranging work for the 28-GeV. proton synchrotron at CERN which has just started working. Dr. Merrison had no opportunity of taking a normal Ph.D. course in a university on account of the War, and so took his degree as a member of the University of Liverpool staff. He is expected to return to the University in the autumn of this year.

Geological Survey and Museum:

Sir William Pugh, O.B.E., F.R.S.

SIR WILLIAM PUGH, director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Museum of Practical Geology, is retiring at the end of July. Sir William, who was born on July 28, 1892, was educated at the County School, Welshpool, and at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. After service in the First World War, in which he was made O.B.E. (Military Division), received the French Croix de Guerre and was twice mentioned in dispatches, he was appointed in 1919 professor of geology at Aberystwyth. In 1931 he was appointed to the chair of geology in the University of Manchester, and became pro-vice-chancellor and later deputy vice-chancellor of that University. He was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society in 1952 for his researches into the stratigraphy of the Palaeozoic rocks in Central Wales. Sir William became director of the Geological Survey and Museum in 1950. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1951, and knighted in 1956.

Dr. Cyril J. Stubblefield, F.R.S.

DR. CYRIL J. STUBBLEFIELD is to succeed Sir William Pugh as director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Museum of Practical Geology. Dr. Stubblefield was educated at the Perse School, Chelsea Polytechnic and the Royal College of Science, London. In 1923 he was appointed demonstrator in geology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, a post he occupied until 1928, when he joined the Geological Survey as a geologist. In 1929 he entered the Department of Palaeontology of the Survey; and in 1947 he was appointed chief palaeontologist. This post he held until 1953, when