

ogy, obtaining his master's degree in 1951 on the denudation chronology of south-west Devon. In the meantime he had been appointed to the staff of the Department of Geography in the University of Sheffield where, under Prof. D. L. Linton, he collaborated with Mr. R. A. G. Savigear and other colleagues in the development of field techniques of geomorphological mapping. War service in Canada and Iceland had aroused his interest in problems of landscape evolution in northern latitudes, and after joining the staff at Exeter in 1954 he returned to the arctic for field work in Spitsbergen and northern Scandinavia. Since then he has been investigating the effects of Pleistocene cryergic processes in the landscapes of Devon and Cornwall. Mr. Waters's other geomorphological research has been chiefly concerned with the origin of planation surfaces in south-west England and the physiographic evolution of Dartmoor. He was made a corresponding member of the Periglacial Commission of the International Geographical Union in 1960, and in 1961 he became secretary of the British Geomorphological Research Group. He is a gifted teacher and an outstandingly able administrator.

#### The Royal Mint : Dr. J. H. Watson

DR. J. H. WATSON, whose work at the Royal School of Mines was interrupted by war service in France and Italy, joined the Mint in 1922, where he served for various periods in both the Assay Laboratory and the Operative Department, becoming chemist and assayer in 1954, from which post he has just retired. In his early days he was associated with Sir Thomas Rose in seeking improvement in the coinage bronze alloy and in investigating the cold-rolling of commercially pure nickel. Later, with Dr. S. W. Smith, he studied the inverse segregation of alloys, particularly the silver-copper alloys, and continued these investigations after Dr. Smith's retirement. They had particular application to Mint practice on the debasement in 1921 of the silver coinage from the binary 92.5 per cent silver alloy to the 50 per cent quaternary alloy, in view of the fine tolerances to which the Mint works, particularly in the case of precious metal alloys. Dr. Watson served as president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy during 1959-60 and was made a Fellow of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1961; he is continuing at the Mint for the time being in a consultative capacity.

#### Mr. E. G. V. Newman, O.B.E.

MR. E. G. V. NEWMAN, who has succeeded Dr. Watson, joined the Mint from Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., in 1937, after graduating at the Royal School of Mines. He is at present chairman of the London Local Section of the Institute of Metals.

#### M. V. Lomonosov

THE 250th anniversary of Mikhael Vasilivich Lomonosov (1711-65) was marked by seven articles published in *Priroda* (11, 9; 1961). Chemist, physicist, geologist, linguist and poet, Lomonosov was a veritable genius, typical of the century in which he lived. The articles include reprints of previously published articles by O. Yu. Schmidt and A. E. Fersman and newly written articles by T. A. Chudinov on the materialistic doctrine of Lomonosov, by I. I. Iskol'dsky on Lomonosov as a chemist, by A. A. Gregoriev on Lomonosov as a founder of Russian geography, by B. V. Kukarkin on Lomonosov and astronomy, and finally by

L. D. Sheviakov, who in a series of quotations from the writings of Lomonosov provides the key to his scientific outlook. Another article on Lomonosov, by A. V. Topchiev, is presented in the February issue (*Priroda*, 2, 49; 1962). A book on Lomonosov and the St. Petersburg Academy of Science, by M. T. Radovsky, was published by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences in 1961.

#### Adam Prazmowski

ADAM PRAZMOWSKI was born on October 25, 1853, in Siedliska-Kasztel in the Austrian-occupied part of Poland known at the time as Galicia. He went to school in Przemyśl, where, from the age of fourteen, he worked his way by giving poorly paid private lessons. At this period of his life he knew real hunger and, to re-establish his badly impaired health, accepted the post of a village teacher while continuing his education. From his early days his eminent intelligence combined with great zeal attracted attention and earned him numerous scientific grants. The first scholarship enabled him to conclude with distinction studies in the Dunblany Higher School of Agriculture, near Lwow. The next enabled him to study in the University of Leipzig, where, in 1876-79, he embarked on independent research. In April 1870 he published the results of his research in a preliminary communication dealing with the life-cycles of bacteria. In 1880 he published his doctorate thesis as a major treatise on the same subject, in which he showed that, irrespective of variability, there are differences between bacterial spores which primarily involve the kind of sporulation and spore germination. Prazmowski later achieved distinction in other fields and, besides his work on variation among bacteria, made fundamental contributions to our knowledge of symbiotic and non-symbiotic nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Details of his life and work are described in articles in the *Review of the Polish Academy of Sciences* (6, 3123; July-September 1961).

#### New Bright Comet

A NEW comet (1962c) was discovered by T. Seki in Japan on February 4, and independently by R. D. Lines in Arizona, also on February 4, when it was of magnitude 9, and in declination  $-37^\circ$ . Owing to its southern position, few accurate observations were made during the first few weeks after discovery. More recently, the comet has been well observed from the southern hemisphere and from lower northern latitudes. An observation by B. J. Harris in Perth, Western Australia, on March 9 gave the magnitude as 4.0. The comet was visible to the naked eye, and had a bright central condensation and a long tail. *British Astronomical Association Circular* 438, issued on March 21, gives two orbits, one by Mr. M. P. Candy, of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux, who also provides an ephemeris. The comet will be best placed for observers in the British Isles from April 3 onwards in the evening twilight. Perihelion distance is 0.031 astronomical unit on April 1, 1 d. 16 h. On April 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 the comet will be about 3, 5, 6 and 7 degrees in declination north of the Sun, 3, 6, 9 and 11 degrees in right ascension east of the Sun, and its magnitude is predicted to be  $-3$ ,  $-1$ ,  $-0.2$  and  $+0.7$ , respectively. The apparent distance from the Sun will continue to increase, reaching about  $45^\circ$  by May 16, when the stellar magnitude will have become  $+9$ .