

For several years, MacWilliam's indifferent health interfered with intensive original research, and it was not until 1913 that a further series of important papers appeared on the measurement of blood pressure in man. These investigations were the subject of a comprehensive discussion which appeared in *Physiological Reviews* in 1925. There are other publications to which reference might be made, but those mentioned indicate the extent of his work and the high estimate which has been placed upon it. In 1916 MacWilliam was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, an honour which brought satisfaction to many of his colleagues and students.

It is perhaps as teacher and lecturer that MacWilliam will best be remembered. Gifted with a clear and lucid style, he could present, with but the slightest reference to notes, the most difficult aspects of his subject. As a lecturer he had few equals; every lecture was excellently arranged, clearly delivered and full of interest and incident. To those who had the privilege of knowing him intimately, Prof. MacWilliam revealed a new depth and richness of character which made one realize the greatness of his personality. The experience of the years—and they were not without their share of sorrow and suffering—had produced a wonderful combination of philosophical insight and critical scientific judgment.

By his personal qualities, always gracious, never unkindly critical, ever sympathetic, Prof. MacWilliam endeared himself to many generations of Aberdeen students. His charm of manner, his constant kindness and courtesy, won for him the affectionate regard of all who knew him intimately. In the world of science his name has an enduring place; in the hearts of his friends his memory will for long be cherished.

F. W. H. CRUICKSHANK.

Sir Halley Stewart

SIR HALLEY STEWART, whose death at the advanced age of ninety-nine years occurred on January 26, was a generous supporter of scientific research. One of his outstanding benefactions was the founding of the Halley Stewart Laboratories for Physics Research at Hampstead, which now forms a post-graduate school of the Physics Department of King's College, London. These laboratories were in the first instance put at the disposal of the College in 1932 for the special use of Prof. E. V. Appleton, whose radio researches in the college buildings in the Strand had been greatly hampered by the electrical interference caused by adjacent machinery. The premises in Hampstead, which were formally opened by Lord Rutherford, provided a fully equipped electrical research laboratory as well as a residence above, for the professor of physics. During the years 1932–36, Prof. Appleton and his students were able to continue unhampered their exploration of the properties of the higher atmosphere using radio waves emitted from the roof of King's College and received at Hampstead. Since Prof. Appleton's translation last year to Cambridge, the Halley Stewart Laboratories have been directed by the present Wheatstone professor, Dr. C. D. Ellis, whose researches lie mainly in the field of radioactivity.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Stanley R. Benedict, professor of biochemistry in Cornell University Medical College, on December 21, aged fifty-two years.

Prof. Philip E. Browning, formerly associate professor of chemistry in Yale University, an authority on the rare elements, on January 2, aged seventy years.

News and Views

New Year Honours

THE following names of scientific workers and others associated with scientific work appear in the list of New Year honours conferred by the King, which was published on February 1. *Baron*: Sir Harry McGowan, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. *Order of Merit*: The Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, warden of New College, Oxford, in recognition of his eminent position as an historian and of his services to literature. *K.C.B.*: Mr. H. T. Tizard, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. *Baronet*: Mr. P. Malcolm Stewart, late Commissioner for the Special Areas (England and Wales). *K.C.M.G.*: Mr. F. A. Stockdale, agricultural adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. *D.B.E.*: Lady (Juliet Evangeline) Williams, honorary treasurer, Queen Charlotte's Anæsthetic Fund, and honorary secretary of the Joint Council of Midwifery. *Knights Bachelor*: Dr. J. A. Arkwright, member

of the Agricultural Research Council; Prof. J. C. G. Ledingham, director of the Lister Institute, London, professor of bacteriology, University of London; Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Lee, Engineer-in-chief, Post Office Engineering Department, General Post Office; Dr. E. K. Le Fleming, chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, a member of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom; Mr. C. G. Trevor, Indian Forest Service, Inspector-General of Forests, and president of the Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.

C.B.: Dr. L. D. Barnett, lately keeper of Oriental printed books and manuscripts, British Museum; Mr. F. C. Cook, chief engineer, Roads Department, Ministry of Transport; Dr. M. F. Lindley, comptroller general of patents, designs and trade marks and comptroller of the Industrial Property Department, Board of Trade. *C.S.I.*: Mr. F. Anderson,

Indian Service of Engineers, chief engineer and joint secretary to the Government of the United Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, United Provinces; Mr. T. B. Tate, Indian Service of Engineers, chief engineer and secretary to the Government of the Punjab in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, Punjab. *C.M.G.*: Mr. R. Marrs, principal, Ceylon University College. *C.I.E.*: Mr. C. E. L. Gilbert, Indian Forest Service, chief conservator of forests, Bombay Presidency, Bombay; Dr. D. Penman, chief inspector of mines in India, and lately principal, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; Rao Bahadur Tiruvadi Sambasivaier Venkataraman, Indian Agricultural Service, sugarcane expert, Imperial Cane Breeding Station, Coimbatore; Mr. H. L. O. Garrett, Indian Educational Service (retired), lately principal, Government College, Lahore, Punjab; Dr. G. C. Ramsay, deputy director of the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. *C.B.E.*: Mr. C. Gillman, chief engineer, Railways, Tanganyika Territory; Mr. A. E. Hamp, chief engineer, Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours; Mr. G. Jeffrey, member of the Agricultural Bureau, State of South Australia; Mr. D. Mackay, for services in connexion with scientific exploration and survey in the interior of Australia; Mr. H. A. Lewis-Dale, deputy director of Works and Buildings, Air Ministry; Mr. A. G. H. White, lately librarian to the Royal Society.

O.B.E.: Rai Bahadur Mathura Prasad Bhola, lately deputy conservator of forests, United Provinces; Mr. C. Chaffer, principal technical officer, Compass Department, Admiralty; Mr. R. B. Crusher, assistant director of surveys, Palestine; Prof. S. M. Dixon, lately member of the Safety in Mines Research Board; Mr. P. E. L. Gethin, chief surveyor and director of civil aviation, Tanganyika Territory; Mr. B. Hart, honorary consulting radiologist to the Doncaster Royal Infirmary; Mr. E. W. D. Jackson, Indian Service of Engineers, executive engineer (irrigation), Meiktila Division, Burma; Mr. H. S. Kingsford, assistant secretary, Society of Antiquaries of London; Mr. R. H. Locke, superintendent, Horticultural Operations, New Delhi; Dr. G. H. Pethybridge, lately mycologist and assistant director, Plant Pathological Department, Harpenden; Mr. E. A. Smith, chief technical officer for fuel, H.M. Office of Works and Public Buildings; Mr. J. G. Strickland, assistant director of surveys, Uganda Protectorate. *M.B.E.*: Surendra Nath Chakravarti, Indian Service of Engineers, municipal engineer, Delhi; Mr. R. McKintosh, Indian Service of Engineers, executive engineer, Public Works Department, Madras; Mr. C. MacQuarie, agricultural surveyor, Medical Department, Tanganyika Territory; Mr. W. E. Pereira, Bombay Forest Service, personal assistant to the chief conservator of forests, Bombay Presidency, Bombay; Major H. C. Phillips, Indian Medical Department, superintendent of the Punjab Vaccine Institute, Lahore, Punjab; Mr. J. H. Smith, principal, Oaklands Farm Institute, and agricultural organizer for Hertfordshire.

History and Significance of the Electron

DR. KARL T. COMPTON, while professor of physics in Princeton University, performed and inspired a great deal of work on the phenomena of the electric discharge in gases, on the emission of electrons from surfaces and on ionization by electron impact. He is now president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His article on "The Electron: its Intellectual and Social Significance" published as a supplement in this issue (p. 229) contains a survey, written in general terms, of the development of our knowledge of the electron since its discovery at the end of last century. The discovery of the electron, and the application of the electron ideas, first to gas discharges, then to radioactivity, spectroscopy and atomic structure, opened a most rapid advance in physical science, leading up to contemporary views of atomic structure and of chemistry. Applied to technical sciences, particularly in the communication industries, the electron has assumed great commercial and social significance.

Prof. C. N. Hinshelwood, F.R.S.

MR. C. N. HINSHELWOOD, who succeeds Prof. Frederick Soddy as Dr. Lee's professor of inorganic and physical chemistry at Oxford, is a leader of physical chemistry in Great Britain. Still in his thirties, he has made a great reputation by his work on gas reactions. He was formerly fellow of Balliol College and University lecturer in chemical dynamics. He is a fellow of Trinity College, a fellow of the Royal Society, an honorary doctor of science of Dublin and a delegate of the Clarendon Press. He is the head of the Balliol and Trinity Colleges Laboratories, and is the first member of this school of physical chemistry to become professor at Oxford. He is a man of wide interests outside his professional work and, in particular, an expert linguist. At Oxford, professorships are attached to particular colleges. In the ordinary way Prof. Hinshelwood should migrate to, and become a fellow of, Exeter College on his appointment. It has happily been arranged, however, that he remain at Trinity College, and in charge of the laboratories there, until an official University institute of physical chemistry be built in the Parks.

Science in the U.S.S.R.

REFERENCES were made in NATURE of January 23 (p. 142), and January 30 (p. 185) to the position with regard to the International Congress of Genetics which was to have been held in Moscow this summer. A request for further information was sent to His Excellency the Russian Ambassador, who has favoured us with a statement on the recent meetings of the Lenin Agricultural Academy (see NATURE, Jan. 30) and on the International Congress of Genetics. Dealing with the latter, the statement is as follows:

"As to the postponement of the Genetics Congress, it is a fact that this was due to requests received by the organisers of the Congress from a number of