

News and Views

Royal Society of Edinburgh Awards

THE following have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: *British*: Sir Thomas Lewis, physician-in-charge of the Department of Clinical Research, University College Hospital, London; Prof. G. I. Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society, fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. *Foreign*: Prof. F. Enriques, professor of mathematics, Royal University, Rome; Dr. H. N. Russell, chairman of the Department of Astronomy and director of the Observatory, Princeton University, U.S.A.; and Karl Freiherr von Tubeuf, professor of botany, University of Munich. The joint committee of representatives of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society has awarded the Bruce Memorial Prize (1938) to Mr. Alexander R. Glen for his work in Spitsbergen, including survey in New Friesland and the completion of the map of North East Land. The Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the David Anderson-Berry Prize (1938) to Miss Mary A. C. Cowell, of the Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for her essay entitled "An Investigation into some of the Factors affecting the Response of Human Skin and Human Skin Tumours to Radiation". The portrait of the president of the Society, Sir D'Arcy Thompson, by Mr. David S. Ewart, was presented by Prof. F. A. E. Crew, on behalf of the subscribers, at the meeting held on July 4.

Tercentenary of James Gregory

THE tercentenary celebrations of the birth of James Gregory began at the Royal Society, Edinburgh, on Monday, July 4, when papers by Profs. H. W. Turnbull, F. Enriques, M. Dehn, E. Hellinger and Dr. O. Prag were presented on the mathematical work of Gregory. On Tuesday, July 5, a special graduation at the University of St. Andrews was held in the Upper Library Hall, where Gregory had worked and made astronomical observations. Honorary degrees were conferred on Profs. G. D. Birkhoff of Harvard, A. W. Conway of University College, Dublin, O. Neugebauer of Copenhagen, R. Weitzenböck of Amsterdam, and (*in absentia*) V. Volterra of Rome. Addresses were received from the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, the London Mathematical Society, the Edinburgh Mathematical Society, and the Universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge, Paris, and from others. An exhibition of books and scientific instruments associated with James Gregory was arranged in the Parliament Hall, Library Buildings, South Street, St. Andrews.

Prof. Sigmund Freud, For. Mem. R.S.

AMONG the distinguished scientific men of science who have left Vienna since the *Anschluss* is Prof. Sigmund Freud, who has taken refuge in London.

Prof. Freud celebrated his eighty-second birthday on May 6 last. His name will always be associated with the development of psycho-analysis, and the significance of his contributions to psychology was acknowledged by his election in 1936 to foreign membership of the Royal Society, but Prof. Freud had not hitherto been able to sign the roll of membership. Although now resident in London, Prof. Freud was prevented by infirmity from attending the Society's rooms for this purpose, and although the charter book is rarely removed from Burlington House except when it is taken to Buckingham Palace for the signature of the King as patron of the Society, it was decided to extend the privilege to Prof. Freud. Accordingly, on June 23, Sir Albert Seward, foreign secretary, and Prof. A. V. Hill, one of the secretaries, accompanied Mr. J. D. Griffith Davies, who as assistant secretary has custody of the charter book, to Prof. Freud's residence, where the roll was duly signed by Prof. Freud in the presence of his daughter, Dr. Anna Freud, and Princess Marie of Greece, who was a pupil of his and received him when he left Austria. On behalf of the Royal Society, Sir Albert Seward presented to Prof. Freud an inscribed copy of a facsimile of the Society's charter book.

University of Birmingham: Physics Department

IN April last the Council of the University of Birmingham, in considering a request from Prof. M. L. Oliphant for an extension of the Physics Department, regretted that the demands made by the New Medical School would make such an extension impossible unless some private benefactor came forward to provide the necessary money. At the meeting of the Council on June 29, it was announced that Lord Nuffield has offered to give the necessary amount of £60,000. Of this, a sum of £40,000 is to be used for the building, the remainder being reserved for equipment and maintenance and for the foundation of a research scholarship. The plans for the new block provide for a professor's room and secretary's office, a staff room and library. The central part is a large and lofty research hall for high-voltage work, this being flanked by eight small research rooms, each about 16 ft. by 14 ft. There are to be also a machine-room and workshop, two dark rooms, and a basement room for high-energy X-ray work. The general design of the laboratory is such as to lend itself to modification to provide for new developments which may from time to time become desirable. The provision thus made for research will enable the existing physics block (with slight alteration) to be used for teaching purposes for which it was originally intended, and the unsightly temporary huts which since the Great War have been used as an extension of the Department will disappear.