

Prof. D. H. Robertson

DR. D. H. ROBERTSON has been appointed to the Sir Ernest Cassel chair of economics, with special reference to banking and currency, tenable at the London School of Economics. He will take up his duties on January 1, 1939. The Sir Ernest Cassel chair of economics, instituted in 1920, was previously occupied by Prof. T. E. Gregory, who resigned in December 1937 to take up the office of economic adviser to the Government of India. Dr. D. H. Robertson is at present reader in economics in the University of Cambridge, and has been a fellow of Trinity College since 1914. His work on industrial fluctuation and on the theory of money has given him an international reputation, recognized by the conferment on him of honorary degrees by the Universities of Amsterdam and Harvard. He has been a member of the Economic Advisory Council since 1936. He co-operated with Prof. A. L. Bowley in the Economic Survey of India, 1934. Among his published works are "A Study of Industrial Fluctuations" (1915), "Money" (1922), and "Banking Policy and the Price Level" (1926).

New Wing of Queen Mary College, London

ON October 12, the Chancellor of the University of London formally opened the new west wing of Queen Mary College, which has been erected upon the site of the Winter Garden of the old People's Palace. The spacious Zoology Department, fully equipped for modern requirements, occupies the top of the new wing, and apart from the usual laboratories, museum, etc., possesses a special aquarium room with marine and freshwater aquaria, and two animal rooms. The removal of the Arts Departments to the lower floors of this new wing has provided room for considerable extensions of the Departments of Botany, Geology and Physics, which occupy the east wing, although the completion of the Physics Department awaits the third and final phase of the building programme. The College is now provided nearly throughout with up-to-date modern laboratories, several of which are equipped for special lines of research. In declaring the new buildings open, the Chancellor expressed the hope that funds would soon become available for completing the building programme of the College.

Rothamsted Centenary: Inaugural Meeting

WHILE the experimental fields at Rothamsted are probably the best known and the most interesting in the world, the laboratories, farm buildings and equipment are admittedly not up to the standard of many of the Continental or American stations, and do not allow of anything like so much scientific assistance to the farmer as should in these difficult times be available. The Committee of Management is taking advantage of the approaching centenary to remedy these various deficiencies and is hoping to raise a fund of £125,000, of which £80,000 would be used for buildings and equipment and £45,000 for addition to endowment so as to provide for upkeep of fabric and

salary augmentations. The work will proceed in three stages. The first is the building of the new chemical and bacteriological laboratories, pot culture houses and farm buildings; this will cost about £45,000 of which, however, only £30,500 is drawn from the centenary fund, the remainder being provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. The second stage will be the building of the library at a cost of £20,000; and the third the erection of a new block to house the Imperial Soil Bureau, the Statistical Department, the administration and extension staff, a conference hall and staff common rooms: this will cost about £30,000. It is hoped to complete all three parts before the centenary occurs in 1943, hence the work is being put in hand as early as possible. This is being done partly also for the convenience of those who wish to spread their donations over a period of years. The scheme is being inaugurated at a meeting to be held on November 1 at the Royal Society's rooms, when His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent will preside, and when it will be announced that His Majesty the King, through the Duchy of Cornwall, will open the subscription list.

Tide Mills of England and Wales

IN a very well illustrated lecture to the Newcomen Society on October 12, entitled "The Tide Mills of England and Wales", Mr. Rex Wailes gave a survey of all the mills of which he had been able to find any traces. In the course of two years he had visited the sites of twenty-three mills, and of these ten were still worked by the tides. Starting with the county of Suffolk, he described the mill at Woodbridge on the Deben Estuary, first mentioned about 1170. This mill is served by a 3,100,000 sq. ft. pond with a six-foot head. The water-wheel is 20 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. 10 in. in width and it is mounted on a 22-in. square oak shaft. It drives four pairs of mill stones controlled by a single pair of governors, the only instance of its kind. There are early references to several tide mills in London but the only ones at work are at the Three Mills Distillery, Bromley-by-Bow. Here in the House Mill are four water-wheels, and in the Clock Mill, three water-wheels, all about 20 ft. in diameter, driving in all eighteen pairs of stones for grinding maize, barley and other cereals for the production of spirits. The mills are semi-tidal, being worked as the water flows outward from the River Lea. Other mills still working are at Stamburgh, in Essex, Beaulieu and Eling in Hampshire, Carew and Pembroke in Wales, and Emsworth in Sussex. The paper is printed and illustrated in *Engineering* for October 14.

Associated Learned Societies of Liverpool

THE triennial public exhibition and soirée organized by the Associated Learned Societies of Liverpool and District to illustrate the progress in science and education since their last exhibition in 1935 was held in the City Technical College on October 22. During the course of the exhibition, Prof. E. W. Marchant gave a lecture on "Television", H. Kendrick on "Changing India", W. H. Watts on "The