

News and Views

Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, F.R.S.

DR. J. D. COCKCROFT, whose election to the Jacksonian professorship of natural philosophy, in the University of Cambridge, has just been announced, is, like his predecessor, the present secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, both a member of St. John's College and a northerner. Having gained valuable experience in heavy electrical industry at an early stage in his career, Dr. Cockcroft entered St. John's College from the University of Manchester as Dowman Sizar and Hoare Exhibitioner in mathematics in October 1922. In 1924, he obtained the highest possible honours in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos and was elected scholar of his college. Thereafter he was engaged in research in Cambridge, first of a mathematical nature, concerning the heating of transformer coils (1925) and later, at the Cavendish Laboratory, of an experimental character regarding the deposition of surface films by atomic beams (1928). He took his Ph.D. and was elected fellow of St. John's College in 1928. Although his publications have not been numerous since that date, during the last ten years he has contributed in a remarkable degree to the prosecution of physical research in Cambridge. He was largely responsible, with Kapitza, for the design of much of the equipment used in the production of intense magnetic fields in the early years of this period (and latterly the direction of the Royal Society Mond Laboratory has devolved almost entirely upon his shoulders)—and, with Walton, of the arrangement by which nuclear disintegration was first effected by artificially accelerated particles (1932). More recently, he has been the moving spirit in the construction and development of the Cambridge cyclotron, and he has taken over the major work of supervision of the building operations made possible by Lord Austin's bequest. Then, in college, he has filled the office of junior bursar for the last six years, and in the University has been indispensable on numerous executive bodies. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1936 and this year was the recipient with Walton of the Hughes Medal of the Society. His many friends will wish him well in his new office, and some measure of relief from his numerous extraneous duties.

The Royal Society: New Foreign Members

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society the following were elected to the foreign membership of the Society: Prof. Walter Bradford Cannon, professor of physiology in Harvard Medical School, Boston, U.S.A., distinguished for (a) his X-ray investigations of the movements of the alimentary canal, (b) his analysis of the mechanism and conditions of excitation of the suprarenal gland, and (c) his work on the chemical transmission of impulses in

peripheral nerves as shown by the sympathetic system; Prof. George von Hevesy, research professor in the Institute of Theoretical Physics, Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen, distinguished for (a) his work in experimental chemical physics, particularly the use, for the solution of biological and chemical problems, of radioactive and isotopic substances as indicators, (b) for his discovery of hafnium, and (c) for his geochemical researches and for his work on isotopes and their separation; Prof. Herbert Freundlich, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A., distinguished for his researches in colloid chemistry and colloid physics.

The Linnean Society: New Foreign Members

THE following five biologists were elected foreign members of the Linnean Society of London at the general meeting on May 11: Prof. Alfred Ernst, director of the Institute of General Botany in the University of Zurich, distinguished for his work on apogamy in plants and related subjects, and for his fundamental investigations on heterostyly in Primulaceae and tropical Rubiaceae. His monograph on the new flora of the volcanic island of Krakatau was translated into English more than thirty years ago. Dr. William King Gregory, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, distinguished for his researches on the morphology and evolution of the vertebrate skull and locomotor systems, the evolution of mammalian molar teeth, the phylogeny of fish skulls and the origin of man. Dr. William Marins Docters van Leeuwen, formerly director of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, distinguished for his work on galls and the various relations between plants and insects, on the regeneration of vegetation on lava and the biology of plants on mountain tops. His recent "Biology of Plants and Animals occurring in the Higher Parts of Mount Pangrango-Gedeh in West Java" and "Krakatau 1883-1933" are outstanding contributions to tropical botany.

DR. ALFRED REHDER, associate professor of dendrology and curator of the Herbarium, Arnold Arboretum, distinguished for his outstanding contributions to the taxonomy of trees and shrubs. His "Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs" is a standard work, as is also "The Cultivated Conifers", which he wrote in collaboration with Prof. L. H. Bailey. His contributions to botanical bibliography include the preparation of the monumental "Bradley Bibliography". He has played a valuable part in suggesting practical additions and emendations to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. Prof. William Albert Setchell, emeritus professor of botany in the University of California, distinguished for his researches on the classification and distribution