NEWS AND VIEWS

Guthrie Lecture of the Physical Society

PROF. E. N. DA C. ANDRADE, Quain professor of physics in the University of London, is delivering the twenty-fifth Guthrie Lecture at a meeting of the Physical Society in the Royal Institution on April 4. The lecture is entitled "A Problem of Guthrie's Time" and its subject is sensitive flames, or rather sensitive jets in general, one of the types of acoustical investigation so elegantly and so successfully carried out by Prof. Andrade and his students at University College, London. It was at that college that Andrade started his research career. From there he went to Heidelberg to work under Lenard on the electrical properties of flames; for this work, in which he established, for the first time, the true velocity of the positive ions, he obtained his Ph.D. *summa cum lauda*. Returning for a further year to his old college, of which he became a fellow, he established the laws of the flow of metals under constant stress, and prepared the first single crystals of certain metals, including solid mercury. He then went to the Cavendish Laboratory for a year, and afterwards to Manchester, where he carried out, with Rutherford, the first determination of wave-lengths in the gamma-ray spectrum. During the War of 1914–18, Prof. Andrade saw active service in the R.G.A., and was mentioned in dispatches. Afterwards, he was appointed professor of physics in what was soon to become the Military College of Science, Woolwich, where he built up a physics department *ab initio*, put the teaching of physics on a sound footing, and did everything that was possible to foster active experimental research in his department.

In 1928 Prof. Andrade was appointed to the Quain chair of physics at University College, where he resumed work on single crystals and established a flourishing school of research. Here, too, he has done fundamental work on liquid viscosity and on acoustics, including investigations on Kundt's tube in the most general aspect, and also on sensitive jets, which form the subject of his Guthrie Lecture. Every item of his experimental work displays the marks of extreme thoroughness and great beauty. Prof. Andrade is widely known as a brilliant exponent and an original popular lecturer. His books have the same excellent qualities as his researches and his lectures; among them are "The Structure of the Atom", which very quickly reached a third edition, "The Atom" (a smaller book), "Engines", and "The Mechanism of Nature" (which has been translated into six European languages). In addition to his scientific work, he has found time to maintain his old activities and interests in poetry, and as a collector of old books.

Iron and Steel Institute: Bessemer Gold Medal

DR. THOMAS SWINDEN, who has been awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal for 1941 of the Iron and Steel Institute, is director of research in the United Steel Companies, and a director of Messrs. Samuel Fox and Co. Ltd. He studied metallurgy at Sheffield under Prof. Arnold, being awarded the Mappin Medal and gaining an 1851 Exhibition scholarship, with which he went to Sweden, working in the University of Uppsala and in Swedish steel works. Returning to England he entered the firm of Samuel Fox and Co. at Stocksbridge, near Sheffield, where he installed a laboratory for physical testing. When the firm became part of the United Steel Companies, Dr. Swinden took charge of the research work of the combined firms, and in 1934 the exceptionally well-equipped Central Research Department at Stocksbridge was opened. By the organization and staffing of this laboratory, he has done much to advance the application of science to the iron and steel industry.

Dr. Swinden's own investigations have included the first detailed study of the tungsten steels, carried out partly at Sheffield and partly at Uppsala. This laid the foundation for all later work on tungsten steels, and was followed by a similar exhaustive study of molybdenum steels, for which he was awarded the Carnegie Gold Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute. His later work has dealt with the properties of cold-rolled steel and with the control of grain size in steel. As chairman or vice-chairman of research committees, he has rendered valuable service in connexion with researches now in progress, especially on the problem of oxygen in steel and on the improvement of refractory materials.

University of Bristol: Chair of Anatomy

PROF. S. E. WHITNALL has retired from the chair of anatomy in the University of Bristol on reaching the retiring age. His going will be a loss to British anatomy in many ways, for he was far more than an anatomist. He was a contributor to the columns of *Punch*, and the author of that most human little publication "The Study of Anatomy". Had Prof. Whitnall never made any other contribution to the study of anatomy, that publication would have endeared him to many. To his contemporaries he will ever be remembered as the most humorous and human of companions; to the present generation he may be no more than the respected author of the "Anatomy of the Human Orbit". But despite the attack of the B.N.A. on eponymous nomenclature, he may claim in 'Whitnall's tubercle' to be the only living anatomist whose name remains attached to a