usually spent an hour or two before breakfast working in his garden, which was his chief relaxation. He was an ardent supporter of improvement in educational facilities both for the trade lads within the Establishment and in the provision of a junior technical school and evening classes and a secondary school in the district.

His garden and his local activities (among other things he was a member and vice-chairman of the Surrey N.W. Area Assessment Committee) gave him satisfying occupation during his retirement, until his strength gradually failed and he died at his home, "The Pines", Camberley, on July 15, 1945.

He married in 1907, Hilda Mary, the daughter of William Charles Tuke, of Manchester, who, with three daughters, survives him.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Miss Lucy Ashcroft, formerly lecturer in mathematics in the University of Reading, on September 30.

Prof. A. E. Edgecombe, associate professor of botany in Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, known for his work in mycology, on March 30, aged forty-eight.

Peter Esben-Petersen, a Danish authority on the systematics of neuropterous insects, on April 2, 1942.

Prof. E. Shearer, formerly professor of agriculture and rural economy in the University of Edinburgh and sometime director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt, on September 14.

Prof. E. J. Williams, F.R.S., professor of physics in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, on September 29, aged forty-two.

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. Norman Feather, F.R.S.

Dr. Norman Feather takes up his appointment as professor of natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh this session. Dr. Feather has held the appointment of lecturer in physics in the University of Cambridge since 1936; he was elected to a research fellowship of Trinity College in 1929, and to a staff fellowship in 1936. After taking the Natural Sciences Tripos in Cambridge, Dr. Feather took up research work under Lord Rutherford in 1927 and worked first on the long-range α-particles from radium. He spent a year at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and there studied the relations between β-particle energies and absorption coefficients, deducing therefrom a much used empirical relation. Returning to Cambridge in 1930, he resumed work with the Wilson cloud chamber, and in 1932 was brought in by Dr. J. (now Sir James) Chadwick to obtain cloud chamber confirmation of his discovery of the neutron. Within a few weeks, Dr. Feather was able to obtain tracks resulting from neutron collisions and, in particular, was able to demonstrate the disintegration of nitrogen by neutrons. This was the first evidence of disintegrations produced by neutrons.

In 1935 Dr. Feather joined Prof. Chadwick, who had in the meantime been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Liverpool, and for two years helped to build up the physics research facilities there. During this period, Prof. Chadwick and he studied the photo-disintegration of deuterium. He returned to Cambridge as lecturer in physics and staff fellow of Trinity College. He then took up the study of nuclear energy-levels by the coincidence methods of counting which have since borne good fruit. Dr. Feather is the author of a biography of Lord Rutherford and a treatise on radioactivity. In the early days of the War, along with the rest of the Cavendish Laboratory staff, he headed a party manning a south-east coast radar station. He returned from there to shoulder a major share of the teaching and administrative duties of the Cavendish Laboratory and, early in 1940, under the sponsorship of the M.A.U.D. Committee of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, took up work with Bretscher on the measurement of nuclear cross-sections required to establish the feasibility and size of an atomic bomb. He has since been a member of the British technical committee which has directed the work of the British group concerned with atomic energy.

Anatomy at University College, London
Appointment of Mr. J. Z. Young, F.R.S.

The appointment of Mr. J. Z. Young, demonstrator in zoology in the University of Oxford, to the chair of anatomy at University College, London, provides an interesting departure from the normal practice in Great Britain in filling chairs of anatomy. Tradition in this Department at University College, deriving largely from Elliot Smith's wide range of activities, favours a broad conception of the field of anatomy which is thus likely to be continued. Prof. Young's work before the War on the nervous system of many species and his fruitful collaboration with clinical colleagues on the Nerve Injuries Committee of the Medical Research Council during the War suggests, further, that the especial emphasis on neurological anatomy associated with the work of Elliot Smith and Woollard at University College, London, is to be maintained. Experience gleaned in unusual fields should enable Prof. Young to bring fresh and arresting ideas to the current reconsideration of preclinical training, and new developments in the teaching of anatomy may confidently be anticipated.

Prof. R. P. Linstead, F.R.S.

Prof. R. P. Linstead, whose appointment as director of the Chemical Research Laboratory, Teddington, has just been announced, was educated at the City of London School and at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he had a brilliant career. He graduated in 1924 and entered J. F. Thorpe's flourishing school of organic chemistry, working with G. A. R. Kon on three-carbon tautomerism. After obtaining the degree of Ph.D. in 1926, he succeeded Kon as private assistant to Thorpe, a post which enabled him to devote all his energies to research. During this period he worked out a method for the estimation of isomeric unsaturated compounds in mixtures, which enabled considerable progress to be made in the study of unsaturation and of tautomerism of unsaturated compounds. He obtained the degree of D.Sc. in 1930. Linstead spent a year away from academic work with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., then returned to the Imperial College as a member of the staff and remained there until 1938, when he accepted the Firth chair of chemistry at the University of Sheffield. He moved to Harvard in the following year, but was soon afterwards

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