

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany at Manchester

Prof. J. M. F. Drummond

PROF. J. M. F. DRUMMOND, Harrison professor of botany and director of the botanical laboratories in the University of Manchester, retires at the end of the current academic session. Prof. Drummond was educated at King's College, London, and at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he held the Frank Smart Research Studentship during 1904-6. His first academic appointment was at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was lecturer in botany during 1906-9. He then transferred to the University of Glasgow, where, under Prof. F. O. Bower, he was lecturer in plant physiology from 1909 until 1921. Then for four years he was director of the Scottish Plant-Breeding Station, being the first director of that Institute. In 1925, he was appointed to succeed Prof. Bower as regius professor of botany in the University of Glasgow, and in 1930 transferred to the Harrison chair at Manchester. Prof. Drummond's outstanding published work was his translation from the German of Haberlandt's "Physiological Plant Anatomy", a book which for years had considerable influence on the development of plant anatomical studies. But it is certain that Prof. Drummond's greatest influence lay in his encouragement of young research workers and lecturers under his charge. Nothing in this connexion was ever too much trouble for him, and there are many present-day botanists and others who owe much to the sympathetic interest and practical support of Prof. Drummond in the formative years of their professional careers. Prof. Drummond also had a brilliant military career during the First World War, and during the second was an enthusiastic worker in charge of the Manchester University Contingent Senior Training Corps.

Prof. Eric Ashby

PROF. ERIC ASHBY, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Drummond, was educated at the City of London School and at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he was Forbes medallist. As a Commonwealth Fellow he worked at Chicago, the Desert Laboratory at Tucson and at Hawaii. In 1931 he was appointed lecturer at the Imperial College, and in 1935 he went to Bristol first as lecturer and later as reader in botany. In 1938 he was appointed to the chair of botany at the University of Sydney. Almost throughout his time in Australia he has been fully engaged in the organisation of scientific work in connexion with the War and, during the past year, he has been in the U.S.S.R. on a scientific liaison mission (*Nature*, 155, 72; 1945). In his research work a strong mathematical bias led him to apply, with success, statistical methods to the problems of ecology; but he has been chiefly concerned with the physiology and genetics of the processes of growth and development. Early work produced elegant studies on the growth of *Lemna* under controlled conditions. Later he made original contributions to our knowledge of the mechanism of hybrid vigour. A man of great energy and of incisive and original mind he has a most stimulating influence on his friends and students. He will bring to his new post the experience of wide travel and generous sympathies. His return to Britain will notably strengthen botanical teaching and research in this country.

The Engineer: Retirement of Mr. L. St. L. Pendred, C.B.E.

ON April 1, Mr. Loughnan St. L. Pendred retired from the editorship of the *Engineer*, a post he has held with distinction for forty years, having in 1905 succeeded his father Mr. Vaughan Pendred (1836-1912), who had also been editor for forty years. The *Engineer* was founded in 1856, and Mr. Vaughan Pendred in 1865 succeeded the unusually talented but somewhat erratic engineering genius Zerah Colburn (1832-70) who, in 1866, founded *Engineering*. Mr. Vaughan Pendred, who was born in the county of Wicklow, in 1862, married Miss Marian Loughnan and went to England shortly afterwards. Before joining the *Engineer*, he edited the *Mechanics Magazine*, then the most important journal in Britain devoted to things mechanical. Mr. Loughnan Pendred was his second son, and was born in 1870. Educated at the Central Institution, South Kensington, and at Finsbury Technical College, where he came under the inspiring influence of Silvanus Thompson, John Perry and H. E. Armstrong, he gained practical experience at Colchester, Ghent and on the old Western Railway of France, and during 1893-96 he was employed in the ordnance department of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell and Co., at Elswick. He then joined his father in the office of the *Engineer*, and at the age of thirty-five succeeded to the editorial chair.

Apart from his work for the famous engineering journal, Mr. Pendred is best known for his activities in connexion with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, of which he is now an honorary member. He was president of the Institution during 1930-31, represented it at the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and in 1934 delivered the Thomas Lowe Gray lecture, "A Survey of Ships and Engines". The first illustration in this lecture is from Robertus Valturius, 1472, an indication of Mr. Pendred's love of history, which has made him a valuable member of the Newcomen Society. It was in his office on June 4, 1920, that the Society made its debut. He has twice served as president and his address on October 26, 1923, was on "The Value of Technological History". He has also served as president of the Institution of Engineers-in-Charge, and is an honorary member of the Junior Institution of Engineers. During his long editorship of the *Engineer*, he has introduced many improvements, and it fell to him to guide its fortunes through two great wars. Among his friends he is known as the best of hosts and as the maker of delightful models and machines. His services to the engineering profession were recognized by the award to him in 1934 of the C.B.E. He is succeeded in the editor's chair by his second son, Mr. Benjamin Pendred, who will have the assistance as consultant editor of Dr. T. W. Chalmers, who has been associated with the journal since 1909.

Stopes Medal of the Geologists' Association: Award to Mr. A. S. Kennard

ON March 1 the Henry Stopes Memorial Medal for work on prehistoric man and his geological environment was awarded at the annual general meeting of the Geologists' Association to Mr. A. S. Kennard, retiring president of the Association. The choice of the first recipient had been entrusted to Henry Stopes's daughter, Dr. Marie Stopes. The new president, Mr. C. N. Bromehead, immediately after