

ation. He then became mathematics master at Clifton College, where he stayed until he was offered the chair of mathematics at Leeds. The appointment of a school master to a university chair was an interesting experiment, and there can be no doubt about its success. During his Clifton period, Milne wrote text-books on higher algebra, projective geometry, homogeneous co-ordinates and the calculus. But his greatest contribution to mathematics has been a number of papers, published mainly in the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society*, dealing with the properties of plane cubic, quartic and quintic curves, and the relations between the cubic surface and quartic curves, culminating in the properties and groupings of the 2,015 conics which touch the plane quintic curve at five distinct points. The University of Aberdeen recently conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D.

Prof. Milne brought into the development of the Mathematics Department of the University of Leeds a profound knowledge of conditions in schools, and a deep appreciation of the need for the greatest width of knowledge combined with the mutual mental influence of different types of students sharing life in the same institution. He believed that research should be encouraged among all university mathematical students, and this has happened with some success at Leeds. He took a considerable share in the development of the University of Leeds as a whole, and during his period as pro-vice-chancellor he presided with great success over meetings of the Senate and other committees working out a scheme of post-war development. His influence in the County of Yorkshire was exercised through the Yorkshire Branch of the Mathematical Association which he founded in 1920, and through his work in connexion with the training colleges, when his Clifton experience was very valuable.

#### Geology at Liverpool :

#### Prof. F. Coles Phillips

DR. F. COLES PHILLIPS, University lecturer in mineralogy and petrology at Cambridge, has been appointed to the George Herdman chair of geology at the University of Liverpool. Entering Cambridge from Plymouth College, he graduated in 1923, being placed in the first class in Part I of the Mathematical Tripos and in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos, with geology and mineralogy as his chief subjects. His first researches included investigations on the serpentines and associated rocks of the Shetlands: later, holding a research fellowship at Corpus Christi College, he was engaged in studies on progressive regional metamorphism in Cornwall and Scotland. Appointed demonstrator in mineralogy in 1928, he became University lecturer in the new Department of Mineralogy and Petrology in 1932.

More recently, Dr. Phillips has devoted his attention particularly to the field of ore microscopy, where he has developed equipment and technique for low-relief polishing of ores which have proved eminently satisfactory and have since been adopted in several research institutions at home and abroad. As an investigator in the field of structural petrology his work is well known, particularly his studies on the fabric of the Moine schists of the Scottish Highlands. These researches he is now extending into a general study of the significance of lineation in the crystalline schists of the North-West Highlands. As a teacher Dr. Phillips has been eminently successful, both in his contact with large undergraduate classes and in

the post-graduate courses he has given in his special field of research. He served for many years as secretary of the Faculty Board of Geography and Geology and as member of a number of University committees connected with the work of the science faculties at Cambridge. The ripe experience in teaching, zeal for research and conspicuous organising ability which he will bring to the chair at Liverpool augur well for the future of geological studies at the University.

#### University of London : Appointments

THE title of emeritus professor in the University of London has been conferred on Prof. C. L. Fortescue, recently professor of electrical engineering, Prof. C. H. Lander, recently professor of engineering, and Prof. E. F. Dalby Witchell, recently professor of mechanical engineering, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

The following appointments have been announced :

Dr. S. Tolansky, reader in physics in the University of Manchester, to the University chair of physics tenable at Royal Holloway College as from January 1, 1947.

Mr. A. J. Ayer, fellow and dean of Wadham College, Oxford, to the Grote chair of philosophy of mind and logic tenable at University College as from January 1, 1947.

Dr. John McMichael, formerly lecturer in human physiology in the University of Edinburgh and since 1936 Johnston and Lawrence Research Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and extra honorary assistant physician at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, to the University chair of medicine tenable at the British Postgraduate Medical School.

Prof. G. C. Allen, since 1933 professor of economic science in the University of Liverpool, to the University chair of political economy tenable at University College as from April 1, 1947.

Dr. B. S. Platt, director of the Human Nutrition Research Unit of the Medical Research Council, to the University chair of human nutrition tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Kathleen Lonsdale, since 1945 Dewar Research Fellow at the Royal Institution, to the University readership in crystallography tenable at University College.

Dr. S. D. Elliott, since 1938 a Freedom Research Fellow in the Department of Bacteriology at the London Hospital Medical College, to the University readership in bacteriology tenable at the College.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on Mr. Wilson Mandell, an external student.

#### Braunton Burrows

BRAUNTON BURROWS, on the north coast of Devon, a locality of unique characteristics and of great interest to the biologist and countryman, has been in use for military training during the War. This occupation seems likely to continue. In an article to *The Times* of November 2, a strong plea is made that this area should now be relinquished by the military authorities. For some two and a half centuries the Burrows have claimed the interest of men of science: the mobile dunes are of outstanding interest and provide materials not only for the plant and animal ecologist but also for the physicist, the geographer and the geologist. The flora, which is remarkably rich, includes species of rare occurrence.