

is due to F. G. Watson*, and shows the results of visual measurements made in the United States on the last occasion when an intense meteor shower, associated with the same comet, was observed.

This complete confirmation of the theory of the meteoric origin of short-period ionospheric echoes is most satisfactory, for we can now count our radio

*"Between the Planets", by F. G. Watson, p. 129 (Blakiston Company, Philadelphia).

methods of ionospheric sounding as providing a reliable technique of meteor exploration which is applicable in all weathers and also during daylight. Moreover, since it is found that the effective reflecting power of meteor trails is increased as the exploring radio-frequency is reduced, we have been able to show that, using pulses of lower radio-frequency, many meteor trails may be detected and examined which escape even telescopic visual recognition.

NEWS and VIEWS

Physics at the Royal Holloway College, London Prof. S. Tolansky

DR. S. TOLANSKY, who has been appointed to the chair of physics at the Royal Holloway College, University of London, was born in 1907. He went to Armstrong College, Newcastle, where he started research in Spectroscopy under Prof. W. E. Curtis. After a period in London with Prof. A. Fowler and another in Berlin with Prof. F. Paschen, he joined the Physics Department of the University of Manchester in 1934. Dr. Tolansky has become a leading expert on hyperfine structure of spectral lines. He has made a number of important contributions and has elucidated the nuclear spins for a number of elements: As, Sb, Sn, Pt and Br I. He has also studied the nuclear magnetic isotope and quadrupole effects for various atoms. Recently, Dr. Tolansky has developed new and powerful methods of interferometry, applying them particularly to the detailed investigation of surfaces of crystals, films, etc. These methods, which combine the properties of multiple-beam interferometry with those of wedge fringes, have proved a valuable means of investigating the structure of surfaces in a way that was not possible before. With it he has found it possible to measure differences of level of a few atomic diameters.

Institute of Experimental Psychology, Oxford Dr. William Brown

THOSE interested in psychology will be sorry to hear of the retirement under the age limit of Dr. William Brown from the Wilde readership in mental philosophy at Oxford. Dr. Brown retired from the directorship of the Oxford University Institute of Experimental Psychology last year. It was through Dr. Brown that the laboratory of experimental psychology was re-established—it had been started by Prof. W. MacDougall but disrupted by the First World War. The Wilde readership was first held by Prof. G. F. Stout who, after five years, moved to St. Andrews; and then by Prof. MacDougall, who retained it for seventeen years until he accepted the chair of psychology at Harvard. William Brown was a worthy follower in 1921 of these great psychologists. He had had considerable experience in clinical nervous and mental diseases during the War as medical officer in charge of Craiglockhart War Hospital for neuroasthenic officers and as neurologist to the Fourth Army in the British Expeditionary Force in France.

With such experience, it was natural that Dr. Brown's interests should be directed towards psychotherapy. The nature of his publications showed that this was so. In 1920 he published "Psychology and Psychotherapy", which was so popular that it passed through four editions. In 1924 he edited and

contributed to "Psychology and the Sciences", and in 1926 he published "Mind and Personality", and "Science and Personality" in 1929. In 1938 he wrote "Mind, Medicine and Metaphysics" and "Psychological Methods of Healing". These books were meant to popularize psychological treatment rather than contribute fresh knowledge to the subject, but were very valuable because of Dr. Brown's clear thinking and wide knowledge. Brown is also interested in social psychology, and in 1939 published "War and Peace: Essays in Psychological Analysis". In 1940, jointly with Prof. Godfrey H. Thomson, he wrote "The Essentials of Mental Measurement". Oxford will miss Dr. Brown's genial personality; he is continuing in full-time work in medical psychology in London.

Dr. William Stephenson

DR. WILLIAM STEPHENSON, who has succeeded Dr. William Brown as director of the Institute of Experimental Psychology at Oxford, was appointed assistant director on its foundation in 1936. He had previously held the position of tutor and supervisor of post-graduate students in psychology at University College, London, and had specialized in mental testing and in the correlations of mental aptitudes with one another, having before that worked under the late Prof. Charles Spearman, who regarded him as his most outstanding pupil. Dr. Stephenson's researches in statistical psychology proved, among other things, the existence of a verbal factor, distinct from general intelligence, which needed to be 'partialled out' before correlation coefficients between mental tests could give mathematical support to Spearman's theory of a central intellectual factor, *g*. Indeed, his joint research with Dr. William Brown, entitled "A Test of the Theory of Two Factors" (*Brit. J. Psychol.*, **23**; 1933); and summarized in *Nature* (**130**, 588; 1932, and **133**, 724; 1934), was held by Spearman to be the most adequate and convincing vindication yet produced of the scientific claims of his theory of *g*. During the Second World War, Dr. Stephenson was in charge of the work of applying mental tests in the Army. When the scientific results of this work come to be published, it should be found to be of the greatest interest and importance.

Ettore Marchiafava (1847-1935)

FOR centuries the Roman "Campagna" was a hotbed of malaria, and the part played by this scourge is well recognized in the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire". It is not surprising to find, therefore, that Italian malariologists have enriched our knowledge of its etiology and prevention. Before 1880, medical men and patients attributed the