

Prof. O. R. Frisch, Jacksonian professor of physics in the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, distinguished for his researches on fission processes in nuclear physics.

Sir John Fryer, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, distinguished for his services to agricultural science and his contributions to applied entomology.

Prof. T. M. Harris, professor of botany in the University of Reading, distinguished for his researches in palaeobotany.

Prof. W. H. Heitler, senior professor in the School of Theoretical Physics, Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, distinguished for his contributions to theoretical physics.

A. L. Hodgkin, assistant director of research in physiology, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his researches on the nature of nervous conduction.

Dr. G. M. Lees, chief geologist to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, distinguished for his contributions to stratigraphical and structural geology, particularly in relation to oilfields.

Prof. R. A. McCance, professor of experimental medicine, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his contributions to metabolic studies of human beings.

Dr. K. Mahler, senior lecturer in mathematics in the University of Manchester, distinguished for his researches in the theory of numbers.

Dr. Sidnie M. Manton, lecturer at King's College, London, distinguished for her work on the Crustacea and other invertebrates.

Dr. Dorothy M. Needham, of the School of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, distinguished for her researches on the biochemistry of muscle.

Prof. J. H. Orton, professor of zoology, University of Liverpool, distinguished for his investigations in marine biology.

Sir Leonard Parsons, emeritus professor of diseases of children, University of Birmingham, distinguished for his studies on child health and the wasting disorders of children.

Dr. Stanley Peat, reader in organic chemistry, University of Birmingham, distinguished for his contributions to the constitution and synthesis of carbohydrates.

Prof. G. W. Robinson, professor of agricultural chemistry, University College of North Wales, Bangor, distinguished for his contributions to the study of soils.

Dr. W. A. H. Rushton, university lecturer in physiology, Cambridge, distinguished for his researches on the effect of electrical stimuli on muscles and nerves.

J. W. Ryde, senior physicist in the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, Wembley, distinguished for his contributions to pure and applied physics.

G. R. S. Snow, fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, distinguished for his work on plant hormones and growth.

Dr. E. W. R. Steacie, director, Division of Chemistry, National Research Council, Canada, distinguished for his researches on gaseous chemical reactions.

Dr. J. A. Todd, lecturer in mathematics, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his researches into the geometry of figures.

Dr. F. Yates, chief statistician, Rothamsted Experimental Station, distinguished for his contributions to the statistical analysis of agricultural problems.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Mathematics at Leeds: Prof. S. Brodetsky

THE retirement has been announced of Prof. S. Brodetsky, professor of applied mathematics and head of the Department of Mathematics in the University of Leeds. It must be but rarely that the career of any distinguished scientific man borders on the romantic, but the career of Prof. Selig Brodetsky certainly furnishes one of these rare cases. He was born sixty years ago of orthodox Jewish parents at Olviopol, a village in Russia near Odessa. The prevalence of pogroms against the Jews in the Russia of those days decided the father to seek an asylum for himself and his family in England. He left Russia by himself first of all, and after he had established a means of livelihood in London, he sent for his wife and four children to join him. It was an adventurous journey across Europe for a young woman with four young children, and Brodetsky has frequently told how, as a child of four years of age, he clung to his mother's hand while crossing a frontier, while she pushed a corner of her shawl into the mouth of his little sister in arms to prevent her crying and so attracting the attention of the frontier guards. The number in the family increased steadily in London and the *res angusta domi* was never far absent from their home. But Brodetsky's father was a man mighty in the Scriptures and particularly well-versed in the Talmudic writings, so that young Selig was reared in

a home pervaded with traditional Jewish culture and an intellectual outlook although in a restricted field. The result was that several of the children overcame all obstacles and entered universities.

Brodetsky was educated at the Jews' Free School and at the Central Foundation School, London. He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and was Senior Wrangler in 1908, a feat on the part of a Russian-born boy which evoked much interest and astonishment at the time. After five years as a lecturer in the University of Bristol he joined the mathematical staff at the University of Leeds and became professor of applied mathematics there in 1924. Prof. Brodetsky's twin interests through life have been applied mathematics, particularly aerodynamics, and the cause of the Jewish people. He has been an indefatigable worker for Zionism. As a university teacher, he was a brilliant expositor of mathematical subjects, both on the academic platform of the university and to lay bodies outside its walls. He carried out much research work and wrote several mathematical treatises. Brodetsky is a man of great bodily vigour and unquenchable vitality. His knowledge of Europe and foreign affairs generally made him invaluable in shaping university policy both inside Leeds and more generally in consultation with his colleagues in other centres of learning. His fruitful activities in university life will be seriously missed.