

### Prof. H. S. Ruse

PROF. H. S. RUSE, who has succeeded Prof. S. Brodetsky as head of the Department of Mathematics in the University of Leeds, was an undergraduate at Jesus College, Oxford, during 1924-27. After spending nearly ten years as a lecturer on the mathematical staff at the University of Edinburgh, he became professor at University College, Southampton, in 1937 and he remained there until he went to Leeds in 1946 as successor to Prof. W. P. Milne on his retirement from the chair of mathematics. In 1931 Ruse spent a period in Rome working with the late Prof. Levi-Civita, and in 1933-34 he was on leave of absence from Edinburgh working with Prof. Oswald Veblen at the University of Princeton. Prof. Ruse's main interest is relativity and tensor analysis and he has published a great many original papers in this field in the leading mathematical journals.

In the University of Leeds with its large number of applied science departments, the Department of Mathematics occupies a focal position, and it has a great contribution to make to the work and development of the technological departments. There is a long tradition in the University of a close and cordial co-operation between the Department of Mathematics and the applied sciences, and *ad hoc* courses in mathematics suitable for the individual needs of the technological departments and the Medical School have, so far as the size of the mathematical staff permitted, for long been provided. Prof. Ruse is in complete sympathy with this liaison between the pure and applied sciences, and intends to develop it still further. The Department of Statistics under the readership of Dr. B. L. Welch is within the Department of Mathematics, and this fruitful relationship is already being felt throughout the University in the development of statistical methods. There is a movement afoot for co-operation being established between the universities of northern England in the systematic pursuit of mathematical research, and this activity also has Prof. Ruse's warm support. It need scarcely be said that, in addition to the above affiliations, the cultivation of the science of mathematics for its own sake will be vigorously pressed forward under the leadership of the new head of the Department of Mathematics in the University of Leeds.

### Prof. T. G. Cowling, F.R.S.

PROF. T. G. COWLING, who succeeds Prof. Brodetsky in the chair of applied mathematics at the University of Leeds, received his mathematical university training at Brasenose College, Oxford, and in 1931 was awarded the D.Phil. degree for a thesis dealing with the magnetic field of the sun and the radiative equilibrium of a spherical star. Afterwards he held lectureships in the mathematical departments at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, the University Colleges at Swansea and Dundee, and the University of Manchester, before being appointed to the chair of mathematics at University College, Bangor, in 1945. In 1947 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. He has written a large number of original papers on difficult problems of mathematical astrophysics, the kinetic theory of gases, the physics of the lower atmosphere and also of the ionosphere, and the magnetism of the earth, the sun and sunspots. His principal astrophysical papers deal with the stability of stellar models, the point source model of a star, convective equilibrium in stellar interiors, and the density distribution within

stars as deduced from the motion of the apsidal line in close binary stars. He is also joint author with Prof. S. Chapman of the treatise "The Mathematical Theory of Non-Uniform Gases", and of a memoir on gaseous diffusion in a rare gas mixture. In this field one of his most important papers treats the problem of the electrical conductivity of an ionized gas in the presence of a transverse magnetic field. His work is characterized by great critical insight combined with constructive power.

### University Representation in the House of Commons

WHEN the Representation of the People Bill now before Parliament (see *Nature*, February 21, p. 259) came up for consideration on March 16 by the House of Commons in committee, Mr. O. Peake, member for Leeds, N., moved an amendment which was one of a series designed, he said, in accordance with the words of the unanimous recommendation of the Speaker's Conference, to maintain university representation and methods of election, and to ensure that registration of university graduates should in future be automatic and free. Some of the grounds for the retention of the university vote were set out in the article referred to above, and the support they obtained, not only from university representatives but also from other members of various shades of political opinion, showed that a case could well be sustained. The Government's spokesmen, however, Mr. Herbert Morrison and Mr. Chuter Ede, confined themselves practically to two points, namely, that the Speaker's Conference recommendation, having been made during a previous Parliament, was not binding on the present Government, and that the principle of plural voting was fundamentally wrong and "not in accord with a properly conceived democracy". Mr. Ede referred to the measure as one designed to redress electoral anomalies resulting from the Act of 1918; he said he had never believed in university representation, which he described as the last of the fancy franchises. The amendment was negatived by 328 votes to 198, a majority of 130.

### Institute of Metals: Past and Future

THE new president of the Institute of Metals who took office on March 17 is Sir Arthur Smout, a director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., with special responsibility for the Company's metal and ammunition interests. A member of council of the University of Birmingham, and during 1942-45 director-general of ammunition production at the Ministry of Supply, he has had a life-long experience of the non-ferrous metal industries.

As this was the fortieth annual general meeting of the Institute, Sir Arthur, after paying a well-deserved tribute to his predecessor, Colonel P. G. J. Gueterbock, devoted the first part of his presidential address to its early history. The germ of the idea of such an Institute originated with a young engineer, W. H. A. Robertson—who was present at this meeting—in a letter in *Engineering*. A preliminary meeting held in Manchester in March 1908 was adjourned to London in June of that year, when the decision to go ahead with the plan was taken. This delay proved all to the good, as otherwise the trivial and clumsy title of "Copper and Brass Institute" might have been accepted. The fear of these pioneers that the Institute might fail through the disinclination of manufacturers to allow their technical staffs to present papers or take part in the discussions has fortunately