

observation, especially on sunspots and terrestrial magnetism, he amassed a quantity of material which it is hoped will one day be subjected to profitable analysis.

As a man, Father Rowland had great charm of manner and made many friends, and there was a whimsical mournfulness about him which never failed to amuse those who knew him intimately. He took endless pains to answer the queries of those who wrote to him for information, and in his priestly work was a zealous and sympathetic helper of souls. Towards the end of his life he became rather prematurely aged and enfeebled, and, at the close of 1947, had to retire from all active work. The end came sooner than was expected. He collapsed and was taken to hospital on December 19, and died rather suddenly on the morning of December 26.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. C. O. Bergstrand, formerly professor of astronomy in the University of Uppsala, on September 27, aged seventy-five.

Prof. Torsten Carleman, professor of mathematics in the University of Stockholm, on January 11, aged fifty-six.

Prof. Walter Garstang, emeritus professor of zoology in the University of Leeds, on February 23, aged eighty-one.

Prof. Douglas Hay, chief mining engineer (management) of the National Coal Board and president of the Institution of Mining Engineers, on February 24, aged sixty.

Prof. Richard C. Tolman, of the California Institute of Technology, vice-chairman of the U.S. National Defense Committee, on August 14, aged sixty-seven.

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NEWS and VIEWS

The Crisis in Soviet Science

LAST August scientific workers all over the world heard with deep disappointment that the Soviet Union had officially adopted an isolationist attitude on certain branches of biology. For the first time in the U.S.S.R. there was established a 'party line' in one of the natural sciences. Since then there has been speculation as to whether this attitude might extend to other natural sciences, and a recent broadcast from Moscow gives point to these speculations. On January 26, 1949, the philosopher Alexander Alexandrovitch Maximov, who is a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, and who belongs to the staff of its Institute of Philosophy, gave a broadcast on the Moscow Radio Home Service. The theme of his talk was the correct Bolshevik attitude to natural science. He attacks those foreign physicists who "regard as synonymous the philosophical definition of matter and the objective idea of reality", and who are responsible for other "idealistic misinterpretations" in relativity and quantum theory. He indicts by name Einstein, Niels Bohr and Heisenberg. He warns his listeners against the "Kantian acrobatics of modern bourgeois atomic physicists". He contrasts the ideology of these "social traitors" in capitalist countries with the scholars in capitalist countries who "raise their voice in support of genuine science, of a scientific materialist outlook"; and he cites with approval Langevin, Joliot-Curie, Blackett, Haldane and Levy. The purpose of the broadcast was twofold: (a) to emphasize the importance of a correct philosophical approach to physics, based on Lenin's famous "Materialism and Empirio-criticism", and (b) to encourage an attitude of "militant intransigence towards bourgeois idealistic philosophy and sociology".

Botany at Bangor:

Prof. D. Thoday, F.R.S.

PROF. D. THODAY retires from the chair of botany at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, on September 30. After graduating at Cambridge, he carried out researches on photosynthesis under the late Dr. F. F. Blackman before going to the University of Manchester as lecturer. Thence he became professor of botany at Cape Town in 1918 and returned to Bangor in 1923. Prof. Thoday has successfully combined arduous teaching duties with active research, in which he has made notable contributions in several fields—the water-relations of

plants, plant development and differentiation, and the physiology of succulents. In South Africa he was much interested in the native plants, and several of his investigations concern them; in this connexion he revised the genus *Passerina*. He was president of Section K of the British Association meeting at Dundee in 1939, when he gave a stimulating address on the interpretation of plant structure.

During his tenure at Bangor, Prof. Thoday has seen great developments in his Department, for which he has been chiefly responsible. New laboratories were built in 1926; but these were already congested by 1939 when, owing to the War, accommodation had also to be found for the botany students and staff of University College, London. The latter are grateful for his assistance at a critical time. Plans are now under way for a new building to house the Departments of Botany and Forestry. At Bangor there is intimate contact between these Departments and also that of Agricultural Botany, which Prof. Thoday has greatly fostered, especially as regards instruction in plant physiology and ecology. His staff have made important contributions to the ecology of North Wales and to the algal floras of the area. He has warmly supported Prof. Brambell's plea for a marine biological station on the Menai Straits, now happily being brought to fruition. Both as dean of the College faculty of science and in other ways, Prof. Thoday has taken an active part in College and University administration. On retirement, Prof. Thoday hopes to publish his researches on the developmental physiology and morphology of the mistletoe (*Viscum album*), on which he has been engaged for some years, and to carry out further investigations on other members of the Loranthaceae in South Africa and elsewhere.

Prof. P. W. Richards

DR. P. W. RICHARDS, university lecturer and former fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed to succeed Prof. Thoday in the chair of botany at Bangor. His chief interests are in plant ecology and the Bryophyta, and he will have abundant opportunity for their pursuit in one of the richest regions of Great Britain for such studies. Dr. Richards has been a valuable member of the staff of the Cambridge Botany School since 1937, where he has been responsible for the organisation of the practical classes for first- and second-year students and has

taken a principal part in lecturing to them. A noteworthy feature of his teaching has been his wide outlook and his insistence on the study of plants in the field; in this connexion he has conducted many vacation classes in the Lake District and elsewhere. He is one of the editors of the Ecological Society's "Biological Flora of the British Isles", and has encouraged much research on interesting plants.

Dr. Richards has travelled extensively in connexion with his studies of tropical rain forests. In 1929 he was in British Guiana, in 1932 he visited Sarawak, and during 1934-35 and 1947-48 he was the leader of Cambridge botanical expeditions to Nigeria. In addition to publishing papers on various aspects of tropical rain forests he has written a comprehensive book about them, now in course of publication. As a bryologist, Dr. Richards is outstanding, and he is convinced that mosses and liverworts offer a favourable field, hitherto largely unexplored, for experimental studies. He has taken great interest in the Cambridge Botanic Garden. His Cambridge colleagues, while regretting Dr. Richards's departure, congratulate him warmly on his advancement. They prophesy that he will have a very successful tenure of the chair at Bangor. With large developments pending there, Dr. Richards's organising ability and co-operative nature should be valuable assets.

Engineering at Manchester : Prof. A. H. Gibson

PROF. A. H. GIBSON is to retire from the Beyer chair of engineering in the University of Manchester in September. He will then have occupied this famous chair for twenty-nine years, with a distinction well worthy of the traditions created by his master, Osborne Reynolds. Both at Manchester and in his inspiring re-organisation of the Engineering Department of the University of St. Andrews between 1909 and 1920, Prof. Gibson has maintained a firm belief in Reynolds's conception of the aims and methods of university education in engineering: to teach fundamentals and "the physical laws on which mechanics as a science are based"—and to eschew 'spoon-feeding'. His original work is described in an impressive series of books and papers remarkable for the clarity of his writing, the directness of his arguments and the skill of his experimenting. A very few titles taken at random reflect the range of his interests: "On the Depression of the Filament of Maximum Velocity in a Stream flowing through an Open Channel"; "On the Local Intensification of Draught produced in a Horizontal Air Current by the Presence of an Inclined Rod"; "A Study of the Circular-Arc Bow Girder"; "The Behaviour of Bodies Floating in a Free or a Forced Vortex"; "Piston Temperatures and Heat Flow in High Speed Petrol Engines"; "Tidal Model of the Severn Estuary".

Prof. Gibson was for a time simultaneously a member of the Severn Barrage Committee and of the Air Ministry Engine Research Committee. Since 1926, however, his special interest has been in the use of hydraulic scale-models, and a natural outcome of his great efforts in this field was the establishment in 1946 of the Hydraulics Research Organisation of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. At the present time, no fewer than six university chairs are occupied by former students and members of his staff, and his personal influence among students and practising engineers alike is as significant as (to quote the citation of the Ewing Medal awarded to him in 1938) his "specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering in the field of research".

Prof. W. R. Hawthorne

WILLIAM REDE HAWTHORNE, who is succeeding Prof. A. H. Gibson, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He obtained first-class honours in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos and was awarded the Rex Moir Prize. On leaving Cambridge he joined the firm of Babcock and Wilcox, where for a short time he worked on boiler research. He then obtained a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, which enabled him to go to the United States and work for two years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on combustion research. On the completion of this work he returned to England to his old firm. When the Second World War broke out he joined the research staff of the Air Ministry, being later transferred to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. He worked for a short time at the Aircraft Testing Establishment at Boscombe Down and then moved to the Engine Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. At Farnborough he was quickly drawn into the work proceeding there on gas turbines, and in a short time was put in charge of this work. In 1944 Dr. Hawthorne was transferred to the headquarters branch of the work, where he became responsible for directing the work on gas turbine research. At the end of the War he returned to the United States and took up a post as lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he is at present the Westinghouse professor of gas turbines. Prof. Hawthorne is known for the researches directed by him on gas turbines during the War and for his interest in the combination of fluid flow and combustion usually termed 'gas dynamics'.

Scientific Civil Service: Promotion of Individual Research Workers

It is announced that additional special posts have been created this year for individual research workers of exceptional quality under provisions included in the White Paper on the Scientific Civil Service (Cmd. 6679, 1945). In recognition of their personal work, promotion to these posts in the grade of senior principal scientific officer (salary scale, £1,320-£1,520) has been awarded to the following officers: C. A. Adams (Ministry of Supply), a mathematical physicist whose researches in ballistics and in ultra high-speed photography have led to results of the highest importance; Dr. H. A. Baylis (British Museum (Natural History)), a systematic zoologist, who has made notable contributions to our knowledge of the parasitic worms, particularly those of importance in medical and veterinary work; Miss F. B. Bradfield (Ministry of Supply), whose numerous contributions in aerodynamics to aeronautical research have been of outstanding scientific and industrial value; H. C. Calpine (Admiralty), a pioneer in radar, who has contributed in a large measure to the successful development of naval fire-control radar, and is now engaged on research into the difficult problems of weapon control; W. G. Campbell (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), who has made many original contributions to the chemistry of wood, some of considerable technical importance; J. N. Carruthers (Admiralty), whose investigations on tidal currents have earned for him an international reputation, and who has brought together a valuable oceanographical library; J. S. Dick (Ministry of Supply), a physical chemist and a leading authority on pyrotechnics who has a long record of outstanding achievements in this field; J. W. Fisher (Admiralty),