was unnecessary for them to pass through an interim phase as a university college, and they should be at once amalgamated into a university with degree-granting powers. The full report of the commission was published in 1948; its recommendations, both general and detailed, met with immediate acceptance by Governments, by the Colleges and by public opinion. Within a year, the necessary legislation had been enacted and administrative arrangements completed, and October 8, foundation day, has seen the ceremonial inauguration of the new, autonomous University under Dr. Allen as its first vice-chancellor.

It is proposed that later the University should move to a new site and buildings on the mainland. The British Government has promised a gift of a million pounds from Colonial development and welfare funds towards this project, and the University has launched an appeal. Pending removal to a new site the University is using the existing accommodation of the two Colleges and is undertaking a vigorous expansion of staff, library and equipment resources.

Situated at the junction of some of the great sea-ways and airways of the world, where many races, cultures and traditions are intermingled, the new University has the chance of making unique contributions to educational progress in South-East Asia, to the advancement of learning, by exploiting the rich variety of research opportunities in Malaya, and to academic co-operation between the East and the West. The "monument of light", of which Raffles dreamed, has been established. *Lumen floreat.*

NEWS and VIEWS

President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast: Prof. Eric Ashby

BOTANISTS in particular will have read with pleasure that one of their number, Prof. Eric Ashby, Harrison professor of botany in the University of Manchester, has been invited by the Senate of Queen's University, Belfast, to accept the post of president and vice-chancellor—a worthy choice for a varied and exacting office. Prof. Ashby, who is forty-five, was a student at the Imperial College of Science and Technology and is a graduate of the University of London. His interest in plant physiology, genetics, statistical ecology and in the progress of botanical science generally, has taken him in turn to the United States (Universities of Chicago and Arizona) as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow in 1929, to a resumption of teaching and research at the Imperial College in 1931, to the University of Bristol as reader in botany in 1935, to the University of Sydney as professor of botany in 1938, and to the University of Manchester in 1946. These years saw the publication of several important series of papers in botanical journals, addresses on a variety of subjects, and a number of books including the thought-provoking work "Challenge to Education".

During his Australian period, administrative as well as academic duties fell heavily on Prof. Ashby's shoulders. He was at various times chairman of the Professorial Board of the University of Sydney and of the Australian National Research Council, director of the Commonwealth Scientific Liaison Bureau and a member of various Government committees. In 1944, as counsellor of the Australian Legation in Moscow and afterwards as chargé d'affaires, he had a unique opportunity of studying the progress of botanical science in the U.S.S.R. and the personalities of some of its principal exponents. His observations have appeared as authoritative articles in the columns of *Nature* and have been appreciated by a wider public through the medium of his readable and entertaining book "Scientist in Russia" and a notable broadcast on Lysenko. Since going to Manchester, Prof. Ashby has done much to reorganise, develop and modernize the Department of Botany, to recruit teaching and research staff, and to inaugurate new lines of investigation, while his own experimental work on leaf-shape has already shown fruitful results. In order to establish the reorganised Department on a firm footing, he has deferred acceptance of the new appointment until September 1950. Friends and colleagues will combine in wishing him every success in his new post.

Royal Institution: Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, F.R.S.

ON January 1 next, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade will take up his duties as director in the Royal Institution, resident professor and director of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory, duties for which few English men of science can be so well fitted. Prof. Andrade received his early academic training at University College, London, and gained research experience at Heidelberg, Cambridge and Manchester, leaving Rutherford's laboratory in the last-named University to serve with the artillery in France during the First World War. While professor of physics at the Artillery College, Woolwich, during 1920–28, he produced no less than three editions of "The Structure of the Atom", a book which showed him to be a first-rate scientific writer. He was appointed Quain professor in the University of London in 1928, the post which he will shortly vacate. In the laboratories at Gower Street, he found a long-awaited opportunity to show his creative genius as an experimenter with a truly remarkable flair for fundamental and striking experiments in properties of matter, with particular reference to the structure of metals and the flow of liquids. His work was recognized by election to the Royal Society in 1935. It was interrupted by war service as scientific adviser to the Director of Scientific Research, Ministry of Supply, and he eventually returned to a badly damaged, almost non-existent, research laboratory which, with characteristic energy and determination, he managed to resuscitate in an amazing way. He was fittingly awarded the Holweck Prize and Medal in 1947 and made Chevalier of the Legion of Honour this year. A brilliant lecturer, a poet of distinction, a great authority on the history of science, a man of affairs and a warm-hearted friend, the new director and his charming wife will take much to the Royal Institution.

Charles Chree Medal of the Physical Society: Dr. G. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S.

THE 1949 Charles Chree Medal and Prize of the Physical Society will be presented to Dr. G. M. B. Dobson, of Oxford, on November 4, at a meeting to be held at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7, at 5 p.m. Dr. Dobson has been eminent in the meteorological field for many years,