the Aerodynamics Department at the National Physical Laboratory, where he stayed for eight years. There, in collaboration with R. A. Frazer, and later A. R. Collar, he laid the foundations of aeroelasticity, treating the new subject of aeroplane flutter from both the theoretical and experimental aspects. When the Department of Aerodynamics was established at University College, Hull, in 1934, Duncan was asked to become its first head, and in 1938 he was made Wakefield professor in the College. He was building up what promised to be an important school of aeronautics at Hull when the Second World War broke out, and he went to the Royal Aircraft Establishment to help in the war effort. He was engaged in researches on aerodynamics and armaments and was for a time sent to Exeter to take charge of the Armaments Development Research Department there. At the end of the War he spent some time as chief scientist at Völkenrode, studying the work which the Germans had carried out. Prof. Duncan joined the College of Aeronautics at its inception and has been responsible as professor of aerodynamics for building up the teaching methods and the experimental equipment in the Department. He is a member of the Aeronautical Research Council and chairman of its Aerodynamics Committee, besides serving on several other committees and subcommittees of this body. His main interests lie in aerodynamics and advanced dynamics, and his original work in these fields brought him the honour of election to the Royal Society in 1947. Apart from these special predilections, he has a very wide interest in general engineering, and experience of considerable variety, added to which he is a very able mathematician. His loss to the College of Aeronautics next year will be a severe one; but the University of Glasgow will gain a man of science and teacher of outstanding ability.

## British Museum: Sir John Forsdyke, K.C.B.

PERMISSION has been granted by H.M. the King to Sir John Forsdyke to resign his appointment as director and principal librarian of the British Museum as from March 31, 1950. He entered the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the Museum in 1907, and was appointed keeper in 1932, having served in the Royal Artillery in the First World War. He took an active part in the preparation of the first volume of the Catalogue of "Greek and Etrurean Vases", and in 1909 published a paper in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* which went far to determine the significance of the 'Minyan' fabric of pottery from prehistoric sites in central Greece. Under the leadership of Sir Arthur Evans, he excavated Minoan tombs near Knossos; and he gave to the British Academy a valuable lecture on Minoan art.

Appointed to the directorship of the British Museum in 1936, he became responsible for the planning and erection of the new Duveen Gallery for the Elgin Marbles. But the War made it necessary to place these and other principal collections in a place of security, and the bomb-damage to a section of the Library further diverted his energies. At the earliest possible moment, however, the new King Edward VII Gallery was devoted to a compendious but amazing sample of the Museum's treasures, including the recently acquired Saxon burial-find from Sutton Hoo. Outside the Museum, Sir John Forsdyke has been secretary of the Hellenic Society, and for a while editor of its *Journal*. He has also taken an active interest in the Byzantine Research and Excavation Fund, and the British School of Archæology at Athens. It is to be hoped that his retirement at no advanced age will enable him to devote himself both to these and similar administrative interests, and to the many aspects of classical archæology with which he has been concerned in the Museum.

## Physical Society: Rutherford Memorial Lecture

THE fourth Rutherford Memorial Lecture of the Physical Society will be given by Dr. Ernest Marsden on December 14, at 5 p.m., at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7. Dr. Marsden was formerly professor of physics at Victoria University College, Wellington, and until recently secretary of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; he is at present in London acting as scientific adviser to the High Commissioner of New Zealand and to the New Zealand Government. Dr. Marsden was closely associated with Rutherford in the experiments leading to the conception of the nuclear theory of atomic constitution and also in those leading to the demonstration of the disintegration of nitrogen by $\alpha$-particles; he has collected much information on the early family and student life of Lord Rutherford in New Zealand. His lecture will deal with some of these early memories and will show how Rutherford's inspiring personality influenced his research staff. A film will be shown entitled "Transformation of Elements", demonstrating the early experiments which led to the idea of the nuclear atom.

## Sir Henry Savile, 1549–1622

NOVEMBER 30 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir Henry Savile, the founder of the Savilian professorships of geometry and astronomy at Oxford, the first of such chairs founded in the English universities. Born at Over Bradley, near Halifax, Yorks, he was educated at Brasenose and Merton Colleges, Oxford, and after gaining his degree read some public lectures on Euclid and Ptolemy. In 1578 he travelled abroad and on his return was made tutor in Greek to Queen Elizabeth. From 1585 onwards he was Warden of Merton College, and from 1596 also Provost of Eton College. A scholar and a patron of learning, he published some fine editions of ancient authors, wrote on various subjects, and, like his friend Thomas Bodley, was a generous benefactor of the University of Oxford. He died at Eton on February 19, 1622 and was buried there, a memorial being erected in Merton College chapel. His quater-centenary will be marked by lectures by Prof. H. W. Garrod, at Eton on November 27 and at Merton College on November 30. An article on p. 899 of this issue recalls some of the distinguished men who have held the Savilian chairs.

## Portrait of Fox Talbot

AN appeal for funds for a portrait of William Henry Fox Talbot has been issued over the signatures of Sir Robert Robinson, president of the Royal Society, Lord Brabazon of Tara, president of the Royal Institution, and Mr. Percy W. Harris, president of the Royal Photographic Society. Fox Talbot's researches between 1834 and 1841 place him in the forefront of photographic pioneers, for, from the results of these scientific discoveries, all photographic technique has since developed. The home of the Talbot family for many centuries has been Lacock Abbey, in Wiltshire, and this was presented to the

National Trust in 1944 by his granddaughter, Miss M. T. Talbot. On its walls are portraits of a number of Fox Talbot's ancestors; but there is no portrait of Fox Talbot himself. The hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth will occur in February 1950, and a fund has therefore been opened to commission a portrait in oils for the South Gallery of Lacock Abbey opposite the window which was the subject of the earliest existing photograph, taken by Fox Talbot in 1835 and now in the Science Museum, London. A portrait of this character is considered to be preferable to a photograph, so as to accord with the others in the gallery. The honorary treasurer of the fund is Mr. Harold White, and donations should be sent to him at the Royal Photographic Society, 16 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, and made payable to the "Fox Talbot Portrait Fund".

## Use of Glass Apparatus in the Laboratory and in Industry

THE past fifteen years have seen a revolution in the uses of glass apparatus both in the laboratory and in industrial plants. In particular, the adoption in the laboratory of standardized ground-glass joints has provided an alternative to old arrays of corks and rubber tubing. Quickfit and Quartz, Ltd., started to produce such equipment in 1934 on the initiative of Sir Graham Cunningham, chairman of Triplex Safety Glass Co., and until 1946 the works were wholly situated in the factory of the Triplex Co. at King's Norton, Birmingham. Quickfit and Quartz, Ltd., made gradual headway until 1939, and then, with the advent of the War, the abrupt cessation of laboratory supplies from Germany coupled with the greatly increased needs of research caused the output to go up ten-fold. Further expansion at King's Norton being impossible, in 1946 a new works was started at Stone in Staffordshire, which is now in production, and extensions are contemplated. With large pieces of glassware the question of annealing is extremely important, and special continuous-tunnel annealing-chambers are used, with polariscopes for viewing the strain contours by polarized light. The adoption by industry of glass for use in engineering plant was almost entirely a war-time development; but the value of glass in large condensers, heat-interchanges and for piping corrosive liquids, etc., is now universally recognized. Besides its use in the laboratory, glass has definitely taken its place as an important material in the whole field of engineering. The shop for production of industrial plant at Stone is only in part production, and the bulk of this work is still done at King's Norton.

## Journal of Experimental Botany

THE *Journal of Experimental Botany* has been founded by the Society for Experimental Biology to provide a medium for the publication of original research in plant physiology, biochemistry and biophysics and in such related fields as experimental agronomy. The editorial committee consists of Prof. E. Ashby, Prof. T. A. Bennet-Clark, Prof. G. E. Blackman, Dr. R. Brown, Prof. F. G. Gregory, Dr. W. O. James, Prof. W. H. Pearsall, Dr. R. D. Preston and Prof. M. Thomas. The *Journal* will not be restricted to papers submitted by members of the Society, and contributions from research workers, both in Great Britain and abroad, will be considered. Manuscripts of papers submitted for publication should be addressed to the executive editor, Prof. T. A. Bennet-Clark, University of London, King's College, Strand, London, W.C.2. Three numbers will comprise a volume, and they will appear at four-monthly intervals, commencing in January 1950. The subscription price for three consecutive numbers is 35*s*., including postage. Single number 14*s*. net.

## Sugar Research Foundation: Awards

THE fourth (1949) annual award of 5,000 dollars by the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., New York, established by the Foundation to stimulate scientific studies of sugar as a food and as an industrial raw material, with the aim of improving its usefulness, has been made to Dr. Hermann O. L. Fischer, of the University of California, Berkeley, for his contributions to knowledge of the molecular structure of carbohydrates and his studies of glyceraldehyde, inositol and the nitromethane synthesis. Following the four annual awards of 1946–49 a grand prize of 25,000 dollars will be given in 1950 for the most significant discovery of the preceding five years. This prize will be awarded in recognition of discoveries, inventions or developments in the scientific or technological application of carbohydrates which contribute most significantly to an understanding of the functions of sugar (that is, sucrose), or its practical utilization, as a foodstuff or in its use in any other field of human activity. The award is open to any person, including the recipients of the four annual awards, and all entries should be submitted by February 1, 1950. Further details can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, National Science Fund of the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

## Exhibition: Medicine in History

AN exhibition entitled "Medicine in History" will be opened on November 26 at the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, and will continue until the end of January. The exhibition will mark the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, founded by King James VI on November 29, 1599, by a charter granted to Peter Lowe and Robert Hamiltone. Special emphasis has naturally been laid upon the work of medical men who were Fellows of the Faculty, among whom may be mentioned William Cullen, Joseph Black, William Hunter, Lord Lister, Sir William Macewen and David Livingstone. Through the courtesy of a Glasgow firm, a reconstruction of a modern operating theatre has been arranged, for contrast with that of an operating theatre in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in the late nineteenth century. The advances made in radiology in the same space of time are also illustrated. The history of dentistry is traced in examples lent by a Glasgow dentist, and a London collector has loaned pharmacy jars and apothecaries' mortars. The foundations of modern medicine can be seen in a series of historical medical books. The exhibition has been made possible through the generosity and co-operation of institutions and private persons in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London in placing their valuable, and often irreplaceable, records and specimens at the disposal of the Corporation of the City of Glasgow.

## Colonial Service: Recent Appointments

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have been recently announced: J. Chattaway, agricultural officer, Federation of Malaya; W. R. Mills, agricultural chemist, Uganda; C. C. Shapland, agricultural officer, Tanganyika; J. R. Scobie,