occupied chiefly in qualifying in medicine. He then became a house physician at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, but finally was launched as a physiologist by being appointed to the Sharpey Scholarship in physiology at University College, London, in 1930. It was at University College that he spent the largest part of his academic life, as lecturer, senior lecturer (1933), and finally as a reader during 1937–44. He was sub-dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences for several years. During 1937–38 he worked at Yale University as a Rockefeller Fellow, and further extended his knowledge and his circle of friends. During the war years 1939–44 he was acting head of the Department, and, despite unstable health, administered it with tact and wisdom in the difficult conditions imposed by evacuation and by the strain of war.

In 1944 Newton was appointed to the Holt chair of physiology in the University of Liverpool, effected fundamental improvements there, and was very happy. Nevertheless, when invited to the chair at Edinburgh in 1948, he accepted, though with some hesitation. A major factor in deciding him was his wish to rejoin Prof. G. F. Marrian, with whom he had collaborated in earlier years. At the time when his appointment began, the preclinical syllabus was being re-planned, and he gave himself wholeheartedly to assist in this undertaking.

Newton was elected a member of the Physiological Society in 1930, and served it with characteristic zeal and loyalty, as a member of Committee (1941–43 and 1948–49), as a secretary during 1943–47, and as a valuable member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Physiology* during 1948–49. He relinquished the last-named position in order to become chairman of the editorial board of the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Physiology*. His last communication to the Physiological Society was given by a collaborator only three days before he died.

Newton worked in various fields in physiology; but the subject which he made his own was that of reproductive endocrinology. He showed that many of the phenomena of pregnancy persisted, in some species, after removal of the fœtus, if the placenta remained, and that it could sometimes persist after removal of the ovaries: the placenta, as these observations showed, had important endocrine functions.

Newton was a completely sincere and strong character, a writer of wit and charm, and withal a sensitive and modest personality. He was self-critical, patient and completely dependable in all ways. His "Recent Advances in Physiology" bore witness to some of his fine qualities, to his wide knowledge and interests, his high critical faculties, and to his literary abilities. His department was a happy and a united one, and he will be long and affectionately remembered. He married in 1931, Stella, daughter of Mr. Roger Reynolds, and his family consists of two daughters. C. Lovatt Evans

# NEWS and VIEWS

## Electrical Engineering at University College, London: Prof. R. O. Kapp

At the end of the present University session, Prof. R. O. Kapp retires from the Pender chair of electrical engineering which he has held at University College, London, since 1935; his successor will be Prof. H. E. M. Barlow, professor of electrical engineering in the College. Prof. Kapp entered academic work from consulting engineering practice, in which he had been concerned particularly with the technical problems of a number of large-scale electricity supply systems, including the North-West and North Wales sections of the British Grid. He took to University College a wealth of experience on the needs of the professional engineer, and with it considered views about the best way in which to direct academic training towards meeting those needs. Apart from important and valuable innovations in the teaching of engineering science, he has been instrumental in establishing at University College, as a regular part of the undergraduate course, training in applied economics, law for engineers and the study of the presentation of technical information. His book, dealing with the last of these subjects, and the wide interest which this and his lectures have stimulated, are examples of the enthusiasm which he has given to this work and of the response it has engendered. Prof. Kapp has also devoted unremitting energy to the affairs of the University of London as a whole. For the past four years he has been dean of the University Faculty of Engineering, and a member of the Senate. In this capacity he has played a vital part in the solution of many difficult post-war problems. Prof. Kapp's breadth of knowledge is remarkable. It extends far beyond the horizon of most of those engineers who in other respects may stand comparison with him, and includes languages, music and philosophy. His book entitled "Science and Materialism" reveals unsuspected depths of thought well outside ordinary spheres. By his teachings and his personal influence, Prof. Kapp has made a profound contribution to educational work, both inside and outside the University of London.

## Biochemistry at University College, London: Prof. E. H. F. Baldwin

London will be the gainer and Cambridge the loser by the appointment of Dr. Ernest Baldwin to the chair of biochemistry at University College in succession to Prof. F. G. Young. He combines with long and successful teaching experience the distinction of being the leading exponent in Great Britain of comparative biochemistry—the study of that vast field of strange chemical adaptations and unfamiliar solutions of the problems common to all living organisms. Such work has been Dr. Baldwin's chosen field since the time when, twenty years ago, he worked at the Marine Biological Station of Roscoff in France just after completing the Cambridge Part II Tripos courses, on the distribution of the phosphagens in the lower animals, with special reference to the prochordates. Some of his most recent work, done at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, has followed further the same story. He has also worked on the electrical organs of fishes, the phosphorus compounds in Diptera, forms of glycogen in molluscs, the general physiology of nematodes, and nitrogen metabolism in the snail. Very interesting work has recently been completed by members of his group on nitrogen excretion in *Chelonia* and in a range of aquatic and