

NEWS and VIEWS

Radio-Astronomy at Manchester :

Prof. A. C. B. Lovell, O.B.E.

DR. ALFRED CHARLES BERNARD LOVELL has been appointed to a newly created chair of radio-astronomy in the University of Manchester. Dr. Lovell was born in 1913 and entered the University of Bristol in 1931. In 1936 he was appointed assistant lecturer in the Physics Department at Manchester; he was made lecturer in 1945 and reader in 1948. During the war years, Lovell was occupied with radar research in the Telecommunications Research Establishment, and accompanied this famous institution in its war-time wanderings from Bawdsay via Dundee and Swanage to Malvern. He was particularly concerned with the development and installation of airborne radar in the air force, and his services were recognized by the award of an O.B.E.

Soon after returning to Manchester in 1945, Lovell set up a radar set, on loan from Anti-Aircraft Command, in the courtyard of the University and began an investigation of radar echoes from meteor trails. Soon driven out of the city area by electrical interference, the radar set was transferred to a field at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, near the University Botanical Station. Five years later, aided by generous financial support from the University and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, there has come into being a large and well-equipped research station, with some eighteen research workers engaged in many branches of the new subject of radio-astronomy. The Jodrell Bank Research Station is now, and will remain, an integral part of the Physical Laboratories of the University, of which the director is Prof. P. M. S. Blackett. Together with the pioneer work of J. S. Hey, of the Ministry of Supply Operational Research Station, and of Martin Ryle at Cambridge, radio-astronomy is now in a very flourishing state in Britain. Among the important contributions from Jodrell Bank has been a detailed survey of meteor activity, which led to the discovery of very intense summer showers occurring in daylight and so unobservable by visual means. This work has greatly changed our present picture of meteor activity. The first radar echoes from the aurora borealis stream were made at Jodrell Bank in 1949. Quite recently, radio noise from the Andromeda Nebula has been detected and shown to be of the same order of magnitude compared with visual light as for our galaxy.

Textile Chemistry at Manchester :

Mr. F. Scholefield

MR. F. SCHOLEFIELD is retiring from his position as head of the Department of Textile Chemistry in the Manchester College of Technology on reaching the age limit. He was first appointed, as lecturer in textile chemistry, in 1926. Prior to that he had been one of Prof. A. G. Green's first students in the Department of Colour Chemistry and Dyeing at what was then the Yorkshire College, Leeds. After a short period in Read Holliday and Sons, Ltd.'s dyehouse at Turnbridge, he became chemist to Francis Hinde and Sons, Ltd., at Norwich, and then, successively, chief chemist to Henry Ashwell and Co., Ltd., Nottingham, R. P. Lawson and Sons, of Manchester, and in 1912 to Burgess Ledward and Co., and later manager of their dyehouse. At the Manchester College of Technology he initiated the comprehensive

work on the action of light on cotton dyed with vat dyes, for which he was awarded the Research Medal for 1928-29 of the Worshipful Company of Dyers. This work has become classical, and his research work was further recognized in 1947 by the award of the Gold Medal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists, of which he is now president, in recognition of his "Exceptional Services to the Society in the advancement of Tinctorial Technology both in theory and practice". Still more recently he has been awarded at the Brighton Conference of the Textile Institute last May the Institute's Medal for distinguished services to the textile industry. Under Mr. Scholefield the Department of Textile Chemistry in the College of Technology has risen to the front rank in both teaching and research, and he leaves it with a reputation in industrial circles that fully justifies its position in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Manchester.

Gold Coast College of Arts, Science and Technology :
Appointments

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. James Griffiths) has announced the following appointments in the new Gold Coast College of Arts, Science and Technology: Prof. J. P. Andrews, vice-president and professor of physics in University College, Ibadan, Nigeria, to be principal-designate; Mr. R. Pattison, head of the Department of Engineering and Building, South-East Essex Technical College, to be head of the Engineering Department. The Gold Coast College of Arts, Science and Technology is being established at Kumasi, and work is in progress on the permanent buildings. The College is to be an autonomous institution, complementary to the Gold Coast University College, and will provide courses of higher technical education (including engineering) and teacher-training. Two hundred students of the Achimota Teacher Training College and a hundred other students are expected to move to Kumasi to start the new College this month. A sum of £350,000 has been allocated under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts for capital expenditure on the College—which is likely to be in the region of £2,000,000.

Prof. Andrews, who is forty-nine, was educated at Leyton County High School and Queen Mary College, University of London, where he obtained his B.Sc. in 1921 and D.Sc. in 1931. He has been professor of physics at Ceylon University College and has carried out research on problems of the ionosphere. During 1939-44 Prof. Andrews was head of the Physics Department in Bradford Technical College, and among other duties was responsible for organizing a scheme for training Service personnel in radio. He then became assistant professor of physics in Queen Mary College, University of London, and in 1949 was appointed to University College, Ibadan. Mr. Pattison has been head of the Department of Engineering and Building at the South-East Essex Technical College since 1943. After holding lectureships in mechanical engineering at Birmingham and Leicester Technical Colleges, he was appointed head of the Engineering Department at Burnley Municipal College in 1938, and superintendent of classes to the Board of Industrial Training, Trinidad, in 1940.

Spotlight on Science

THIRTY or more years ago the means of promoting the layman's interest in science took the form of