

## Dr. Konrad Dobriner

MANY engaged in the biochemistry of cancer and related fields will have received with deep regret news of the death in New York on March 10 of Dr. Konrad Dobriner, of the Sloan-Kettering Institute and Memorial Hospital Center. Born at Elberfeld on October 14, 1902, Dr. Dobriner graduated from the University of Freiburg in 1925, and emigrated in 1933 to the United States.

Dr. Dobriner's earlier interests lay in porphyrin excretion, and later topics included the metabolism of specific carcinogens such as 1:2:5:6-dibenzanthracene,  $\beta$ -naphthylamine and dimethylaminoazobenzene, and the carcinogenicity of benzidine. Of recent years he had contributed largely to the establishment of the patterns of urinary excretion of the steroid hormones in normal and pathological states, the application of infra-red spectroscopy to steroid structure and metabolism, and the study of the effects of cortisone and related steroids on the growth of experimental

tumours. From these later researches he was gradually evolving a view and interpretation of the role of adrenal cortical dysfunction in the inception and development of malignant disease as a whole.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

The Right Hon. Sir Stafford Cripps, C.H., F.R.S., who was elected in 1948 to the Royal Society under Statute 12, which provides for the election of not more than one person a year for services to science, on April 21, aged sixty-two.

Sir Charles Inglis, O.B.E., F.R.S., emeritus professor of mechanical sciences in the University of Cambridge, on April 19, aged seventy-six.

Prof. F. H. Newman, C.B.E., professor of physics in University College, Exeter, on April 15.

Prof. John J. Nolan, professor of experimental physics, University College, Dublin, since 1920, on April 18, aged sixty-three.

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Quick Professorship in Cambridge: Prof. V. B. Wigglesworth, F.R.S.

VINCENT BRIAN WIGGLESWORTH, reader in entomology and director of the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Insect Physiology at Cambridge, has been appointed Quick professor of biology in the University. Prof. Wigglesworth, who was born in 1899, took an honours degree in science at Cambridge, followed by a period of biochemical research under Hopkins; he also qualified in medicine (M.D. 1929). He was a member of the staff of the Department of Entomology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine during 1926-44. This appointment, of a young, untried graduate, as Wigglesworth then was, is of particular interest, and indeed proved most fortunate. One may suppose that, had the vacancy occurred a year or two earlier or later, Wigglesworth would have entered a medical career, and developed in a completely different way. But, as it was, a decision had been taken to develop the study of insect physiology: the appointment was made with that in view, and the policy followed with remarkable success. Wigglesworth's personal investigations have been on almost every side of insect physiology; they have been characterized by very careful planning, and in execution he has frequently taken a standard technique and adapted it for use on a small animal. Many of his methods have been beautifully simple, and his results have been so clear-cut that they have seldom needed statistical interpretation. His success in developing insect physiology is shown by his election to the Royal Society in 1939 and his appointment as Croonian Lecturer in 1948. His well-known book "The Principles of Insect Physiology" first appeared in 1939.

## Provostship of Trinity College, Dublin:

Prof. A. J. McConnell

THE appointment of Prof. A. J. McConnell by the Irish Government to the provostship of Trinity College, Dublin, in succession to the late Dr. E. H. Alton has been widely welcomed. Previous to the Treaty of 1921, the provostship was a Crown

appointment, and since then it has been made by the Irish Government in Dublin. During this period, four provosts have been created and on each occasion the general wishes of the College have been consulted. Prof. McConnell has attained this high honour at the comparatively early age of forty-eight; in fact, to obtain a parallel case it is necessary to revert to Provost Andrews, who, in 1758, was appointed at the age of about forty-one. In dealing with the many difficulties, financial and otherwise, which now confront the College, this fact will be considered to be advantageous by many people. The new provost is a distinguished mathematician, and a worthy successor to the well-known mathematical and scientific provosts of the nineteenth century—the two Lloyds, Jellett and Salmon. His publications include a book on the "Applications of the Absolute Differential Calculus", and papers on relativity theory and other subjects. It is also fitting that he was co-editor with the late Prof. A. W. Conway of Volume 2 of Hamilton's mathematical papers. He has held the chair of natural philosophy (applied mathematics) for more than twenty years, and for the past two years has been also registrar of the College, in which post he has displayed considerable administrative ability. Apart from his more serious pursuits, he possesses the traditional interest of mathematicians in good music.

## Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund: Awards for 1951

THE administrators of the Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, representing the Institute of Metals, the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Chemical Industry, have made two awards for 1951, each of one hundred guineas, as follows: Dr. K. H. Jack for his experimental contributions to the study of interstitial alloys, especially in the iron-nitrogen and iron-carbon-nitrogen systems; and Dr. W. A. Wood for his experimental contributions to knowledge of the mechanism of deformation of metals.

Dr. K. H. Jack

Dr. Jack graduated in 1939 from Armstrong (now King's) College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and later