

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Chemistry at the Manchester College of Technology: Prof. H. N. Rydon

Dr. H. N. RYDON, who has been appointed to the chair of chemistry at the Manchester College of Technology, succeeds Prof. J. Kenner, who has been made emeritus professor. Dr. Rydon was a student at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where as a Royal Scholar he graduated with first-class honours in 1931. After a period of service on the academic staff at the Imperial College and at Birkbeck College, he was elected in 1937 by the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 to a senior studentship, with which he proceeded to Oxford to continue his researches in organic chemistry. In 1939 he was awarded the Meldola Medal, a distinction reserved for younger chemists of exceptional promise; and in 1941 he was chosen as Harrison Memorial prizeman. In the meantime, Dr. Rydon had accepted a post at the Chemical Defence Experimental Station of the Ministry of Supply at Porton, whence in 1944 he was seconded to the Microbiological Research Department. Later, as a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council Unit for Bacterial Chemistry, he worked at the Lister Institute. In 1947, however, he returned to academic work as reader in organic chemistry at Birkbeck College, University of London; in 1949 he became assistant professor and reader in organic chemistry at the Imperial College, where he has been responsible for the organization and general supervision of the advanced practical exercises in organic chemistry forming part of the new undergraduate course of study. In his earlier contributions to organic chemistry, Dr. Rydon participated in studies on olefinic acids which had been undertaken at the Imperial College by Prof. R. P. Linstead; later, he was associated with Sir Robert Robinson in investigations on the sterols; other researches have been concerned *inter alia* with the chemistry of the 2-chloroalkylamines, with the mechanism of the Michael reaction, with the constitution and synthesis of various organic compounds of natural origin, and especially with the biochemical aspects of bacterial growth and inhibition. Dr. Rydon's major interests at present are the chemical basis of chemotherapy, including the chemistry of peptides, and the organic chemistry of phosphorus.

## Thermodynamics in Birmingham:

Prof. F. K. Bannister

PROF. F. K. BANNISTER has been appointed to a newly created chair of thermodynamics in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the University of Birmingham. The chair has been created in connexion with the organization of the new graduate school in thermodynamics, and Prof. Bannister will be in charge of this school under Prof. G. F. Mucklow, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Prof. Bannister studied electrical engineering at the Burnley Municipal College and took his first degree in physics in the University of Leeds in 1930. He also holds a London external degree in mechanical engineering. He was a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Burnley Municipal College during 1937-40. In 1941 he was appointed lecturer in mechanical engineering in the University of Birmingham, and was granted the degree of Ph.D. in 1946 and became senior lecturer in the Department

in the following year. He was appointed reader in thermodynamics in 1951. Prof. Bannister is well known for his work in thermodynamics, and in particular for his studies in the field of the transmission of pressure waves in gases within containing vessels and the application of these theoretical and experimental studies in such problems as arise in internal combustion engines. He was the joint author with Prof. G. F. Mucklow in 1948 of a paper entitled "Wave Action following Sudden Release of Compressed Gas from a Cylinder", which was awarded the Ackroyd Stuart Prize of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has been closely associated with the Air Squadron at the University of Birmingham since its formation in 1941.

## Zoology at Birkbeck College, London:

Dr. W. S. Bullough

DR. W. S. BULLOUGH, Cancer Research Fellow and honorary lecturer in zoology in the University of Sheffield, has been appointed to the chair of zoology at Birkbeck College, University of London, as from October 1. Dr. Bullough graduated at the University of Leeds in 1935 and after a period of research joined the staff of that University, becoming lecturer in zoology in 1943. During 1944-46 he was lecturer in zoology at McGill University, Montreal. He then returned to Britain as Sorby Fellow of the Royal Society, a post held with that of honorary lecturer in zoology at the University of Sheffield. He was awarded a Senior Cancer Research Fellowship in 1951. Dr. Bullough has a very large body of published research work to his credit. This has included, in a logical sequence, investigations into the reproductive cycles of fish and the seasonal and hormonal factors influencing them; the reproductive and migratory behaviour in the starling and their possible relation to the incidence of foot and mouth disease; and the mammalian oestrous cycle. From a consideration of the mitotic effects of oestrogenic hormones produced by follicular fluid in the mammalian ovary, Dr. Bullough has more lately directed his attention to energy relations of mitosis. Energy must be stored in sufficient available amount before a cell can divide, and once a division begins it will proceed to the end as an 'all or none' reaction. The hormonal control of these rates of energy production, either by stimulation or inhibition, is now the focus of his attention and may well lead to light being thrown on the evolution of hormonal mechanisms in vertebrates as a whole. Dr. Bullough takes to his new duties a rich experience in three universities both in teaching and research, and Birkbeck College may confidently look to him for a continuation of that activity so well cultivated by Prof. A. Graham, whom he succeeds (see *Nature*, July 5, p. 16).

## Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh: Honorary Fellowships

THE Governors of the Heriot-Watt College have conferred the honorary fellowship of the College upon the following, among others: R. Crichton, managing director of Scottish Oils, Ltd., and a governor of the College during 1937-45; G. Mackay, divisional safety engineer, Scottish Division, National Coal Board, and member of the College Mining Consultative Committee; Dr. J. E. Mackenzie, assistant professor of chemistry in the College during 1894-97 and a governor during 1939-51; R. S. Smillie, assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the College during 1919-52; Sir William Wallace,