

and suggested that the function of the skin pigment in the Negro is primarily to protect the sweat glands from injury by excessive ultra-violet light. Dr. Frank Marsh (London) then described experiments on rabbits subjected to great environmental heat, which threw light on the treatment of human heat-stroke, and a paper was given by Dr. Edmond Sergent (director of the Institut Pasteur d'Algérie) on the problems of populating the Sahara: he postulated that white families could never become acclimatized there as the heat is too great for the women and children, black races would find the winters too cold, and the nomads, who are camel owners, shepherds and warriors, are useless at manual work; consequently, only the indigenous negroid race could usefully multiply, and only in proportion to the amount of water available. Dr. O. G. Edholm (London) described the physiological effects of cold environment on man. He said that although acclimatization to cold occurs, it is a relatively slow process, and suggested that, in fact, man has probably evolved as a tropical animal.

Sir David Brunt (formerly of the Imperial College of Science and Technology) showed by means of graphs the conditions in which office work can be carried on in the afternoon in tropical climates. The limitation appears to fall within a well-defined range of temperature and humidity.

After the discussion, Dr. Frank Malina spoke on behalf of Unesco, and Prof. J. F. Danielli (King's College, London), honorary secretary of the Institute of Biology, summed up. The latter said that, from the papers presented at the symposium, it was apparent that individual deserts present a multitude of different problems. Scientific investigation must precede development; but in most cases the major difficulties are social, moral and political, and present problems of ethics rather than of science.

The proceedings of the symposium will be published by the Institute of Biology, Tavistock House South, W.C.1. Prof. R. D'O. Good has very kindly read through this article in manuscript.

J. L. CLOUDSLEY-THOMPSON

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Mechanical Engineering in Manchester:

Prof. Jack Diamond

THE Council of the University of Manchester has announced the appointment of Mr. Jack Diamond to the first chair of mechanical engineering in the Faculty of Science. This is additional to the Beyer chair (founded in 1868 and first held by Osborne Reynolds) and the chair of electro-technics (1912). In addition there are also, in the Faculty of Technology, chairs in both mechanical and electrical engineering, established when that Faculty was established in the Manchester College of Technology in 1905.

Mr. Diamond's early training was followed by an apprenticeship at H.M. Dockyard School, Chatham, from which he proceeded to the City and Guilds College, London, as a Whitworth Scholar in 1932. In 1935 he was awarded first-class honours in mechanical engineering and was elected to a Senior Whitworth Scholarship. This he held for the next two years at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he undertook research in heat transfer; he was awarded the degree of M.Sc. in 1937. Mr. Diamond was then appointed a demonstrator in mechanical sciences in the University of Cambridge and a supervisor in St. John's College, resigning in 1939 on taking a temporary commission as an engineer officer in the Royal Navy. Three years later he was appointed assistant to the Engineer Manager of Rosyth Dockyard and, after becoming a temporary lieutenant-commander (E.), retired from the service in 1944 to become a senior scientific officer in the British Atomic Energy Team at Montreal. Since 1946, he has been a senior principal scientific officer at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, working on the design and development of nuclear reactors and on associated heat-transfer problems.

### Seventieth Birthday Anniversaries: Profs. J. Franck and M. Born

ON August 26, 1952, Prof. James Franck, the director of the Fels Fund research in the University of Chicago, and formerly of Göttingen and the Johns Hopkins University, celebrated his seventieth birthday. A tribute in honour of his birthday appears in the July number of the *Reviews of Modern Physics*

(24, 117; 1952). It is contributed by Prof. Peter Pringsheim, of the Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago, and consists of a short biographical article describing briefly Franck's numerous scientific achievements. Born in Hamburg, Franck studied chemistry in Hamburg and Berlin, and was appointed in 1920 to the chair of physics at Göttingen. During the thirteen years that followed, Göttingen became under Franck's direction one of the most important centres of research in atomic and molecular physics, a happy and brilliant period which was brought to an abrupt end when Hitler assumed power in Germany. Throughout his whole career, Prof. Franck's work has been characterized by a simplicity in experimental apparatus and principle: the well-known Franck-Condon principle is but an application of the law of conservation of momentum, and the Franck-Hertz experiment of 1914, for which Franck obtained the Nobel Prize a few years later, was a straightforward experimental confirmation of Bohr's atomic theory. The study of fluorescence has been Franck's main occupation, and from that he has been led more recently into the important field of research in photosynthesis. Finally, Prof. Pringsheim singles out for special mention Franck's two outstanding qualities, his obsession for science and his inexhaustible kindness. As a further tribute and one emanating from Göttingen itself, Profs. M. von Laue and R. W. Pohl, the editors of the *Zeitschrift für Physik*, have collected together in the number for September 15 (133, 1; 1952) a series of articles specially contributed by colleagues and friends of Prof. Franck and of Prof. Max Born, of the University of Edinburgh, who also celebrates his seventieth birthday this year, on December 11. Most of the articles are in German, but several are in English.

### The Pharmaceutical Society: Hanbury Memorial Medal

THE Pharmaceutical Society has awarded the Hanbury Memorial Medal to Prof. Gösta Edman, professor of botany and pharmacognosy in the Royal Pharmaceutical Institute, Stockholm. This Medal is given periodically for "high excellence in the prosecution or promotion of original research in the Natural