

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany in The Queen's University, Belfast :

Prof. J. Small

PROF. JAMES SMALL, who retires in October, has occupied the chair of botany in The Queen's University of Belfast for the past thirty-three years. He had previously held appointments as lecturer, both at Armstrong College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at Bedford College, London. For a short time during the First World War he held a commission in the Black Watch. He was originally trained as a pharmaceutical chemist, at the Pharmaceutical Society's School in London, qualifying in 1910 and distinguished as Bell Scholar and Herbarium Medalist. However, attracted by botany as a subject, he later (1913) graduated in that subject at Birkbeck College and immediately adopted academic botany as a career. He was awarded a D.Sc. of the University of London in 1919 and was appointed to the chair of botany at Belfast in the following year. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and, as a keen and very successful photographer, also a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. Prof. Small has always retained his interest in the pharmaceutical aspects of botany. A keen expositor and a fluent writer, he has published text-books in this field and in pure botany which have been translated into several languages. His work on hydrogen-ion concentrations in plant-cells and tissues is also widely known. Nevertheless, he has consistently returned to the problems of evolution among plants, which were the first subjects on which he published papers, and he is best known for his numerous and original papers on aspects of quantitative evolution, mainly published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, which occasioned the award to him in 1951 of the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize of that Society.

Dr. J. Heslop-Harrison

DR. J. HESLOP-HARRISON, who was recently appointed to a readership in plant taxonomy at University College, London, has now been chosen to succeed Prof. Small. Dr. Heslop-Harrison graduated in 1941, with first-class honours, in the University of Durham (King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne). He served during the War, first as a radio officer for the Ministry of Supply, and from 1942 onwards in the R.A.O.C. and later in the R.E.M.E. On demobilization, in 1945, he became a lecturer in agricultural botany at Newcastle and then was lecturer in botany during 1946-50 at Belfast, where he obtained the degree of Ph.D. in 1948. He was appointed lecturer in botany at University College, London, in 1950 and became reader in plant taxonomy last year. Dr. Heslop-Harrison's published work has dealt mainly with the cytology and taxonomy of the difficult British dactylochids, but his interests lie also in some of the British and Irish willows and their intersexes. He has been developing the study of sex and intersexes in plants at the Nuffield Research Garden. His lectures in London have laid emphasis on the employment of cytogenetics and of statistical population studies as methods of analysing the taxonomic problems among British plants. With his wife and the students he has attracted in London, he has embarked on critical studies of several British genera, including the water-lilies, and his small book on "New Concepts in Plant Taxonomy" is a lucid exposition of the principles employed.

Citation for Engineering and Aeronautics :

Dr. W. F. Durand

THE contribution by engineers to the development of powered flight during the fifty years since the Wright brothers made their first ascent was celebrated recently at a luncheon in New York given by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and the Society of Automotive Engineers, and at the luncheon a special citation was awarded to Dr. W. F. Durand for his services to engineering and aviation in particular. Dr. Durand, who is ninety-five, was professor of marine engineering for thirteen years at Cornell University (1891-1904) and for twenty years at Stanford University (1904-24). As a hydraulics engineer he has been a consultant for a number of important hydraulic works, including the Hoover, Grand Coulee and Shasta Dams, the Owens Valley water and power supply for Los Angeles and the Hetch Hetchy project for San Francisco. In 1936 he was president of the World Power Conference, and as late as 1941 his services were once more required in supervising the engineering programme of the National Research Council. His numerous awards range from the Gold Medal of the American Society of Naval Engineers in 1899 to the President's Award for Merit in 1946. Dr. Durand's special contributions to aeronautics date back to 1915 when he was appointed by President Wilson to be chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. In this post he organized research on the scientific problems of flight, with the view of their practical solution, substantially along the lines continued at present by the three great laboratories of the Committee, and early on he personally undertook a fruitful investigation of the characteristics of aeroplane propellers by means of wind-tunnel experiments. He served as a trustee of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics which did so much to establish aeronautical engineering departments in American universities and colleges, and he edited for the Guggenheim Fund the encyclopaedic volumes on "Aerodynamic Theory", which are still the basic texts for aeronautical engineers. Dr. Durand also initiated research in the United States on engine superchargers, which has been significant in the development of high-altitude flight.

Science and *The Scientific Monthly* : New Editor

DR. DUANE ROLLER has been appointed editor of *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*, and chairman of the Editorial Board. Both journals are published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Roller is a graduate of the California Institute of Technology and has taught physics in the University of Oklahoma, Hunter College and Wabash College. He founded, and for fifteen years was editor of, the *American Journal of Physics*. Apart from physics and physics teaching, his interests lie mainly in history, methodology and language of science. In 1949 he was president of the American Association of Physics Teachers, having, in 1946, received its Oersted Medal for "notable contributions to the teaching of physics", and in 1952 was awarded an honorary degree by Hamline University for his contributions to physics as a part of liberal arts education. He is a member of the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics and of the Board of Trustees of Science Service. Since July 1952 he