

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Military College of Science :

Prof. C. J. Tranter, O.B.E.

PROF. C. J. Tranter has been appointed Bashforth professor of mathematical physics in the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, in succession to Prof. O. G. Sutton, who vacated the chair recently on his appointment as director of the Meteorological Office. Prof. Tranter joined the Ballistics Directorate of the Research Department, Woolwich, in 1931 as a junior assistant, after taking his degree at Oxford, where he had been a mathematical scholar of Queen's College, and his career has been in government service throughout. He joined the Military College of Science, as it then was, in 1935 as senior lecturer in gunnery and mathematics, was promoted to assistant professor in 1941 and during the long illness of the late Prof. Wright was virtually in charge of the Gunnery and Mathematics Branch. Since 1945 he has been head of the Mathematics Branch, and in 1947, after the post-war reorganization of the College, was appointed associate professor of mathematics. During and since the Second World War, Dr. Tranter has been a member of several of the research committees of the Ministry of Supply, and he has published a considerable amount of work, mainly on the application of integral transforms to the boundary-value problems of mathematical physics. Prof. Tranter is a D.Sc. of Oxford and was made an O.B.E. in the Coronation honours list.

Agriculture in the University of Aberdeen :

Prof. A. B. Stewart

DR. ALEXANDER BOYD STEWART has been appointed to the Strathcona-Fordyce chair of agriculture in the University of Aberdeen, in succession to Prof. T. L. Bywater, who has gone to the University of Leeds. Dr. Stewart was educated at Logie-Coldstone School, Robert Gordon's College and the University of Aberdeen, where he graduated M.A. in 1925, B.Sc. in chemistry with first-class honours in 1928, and Ph.D. in 1932. After graduating in pure science, Dr. Stewart studied under the late Prof. Hendrick, the first incumbent of the chair to which he now succeeds, and then proceeded to Zurich to work under the late Prof. Wiegner. Returning to Scotland in 1931, he was a research student at the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research and was appointed to the staff in 1932. As head of the Department of Soil Fertility at the Institute, Dr. Stewart developed and extended the work of field experimentation with special reference to the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility. In 1945 he was appointed deputy director of the Macaulay Institute and has since served on numerous technical committees. In 1945, he spent six months in India advising the Central Government on problems of soil fertility and crop production. In collaboration with Dr. F. N. Woodward and the late Mr. J. P. Maxton, he undertook during 1949-51 a survey of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, and their utilization in the United Kingdom. Dr. Stewart has given his services in an advisory capacity to the Forestry Commission and, during 1952, visited the United States of America as a guest speaker. The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, in parting with him, rejoices in his appointment as a successor of the late Prof. James Hendrick, to whose energy and enthusiasm the foundation of the Institute in Aberdeen was due in large measure.

School of Physics in the University of Sydney

THE previous head of the School of Physics of the University of Sydney was Prof. O. U. Von Willer, who retired in 1946 having held the post for twenty-three years, and the chair was vacant for six years until September last year when Dr. Harry Messel was appointed as the new head. Prof. Messel graduated in Canada from the Royal Military College and Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, with honours degrees in physics and mathematics, and then went for a year to Scotland (University of St. Andrews), carrying out postgraduate studies in 'mathematical physics. During the following three years, spent at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, he took a keen interest in cosmic ray theory, in particular the theory of cascade processes, and it was there that he succeeded in giving an analytical solution for the long-standing fluctuation problem in cascade theory. This work was followed by a series of papers in which he developed the mathematical theory of one- and three-dimensional cascade processes. After a year at Adelaide, South Australia, Prof. Messel was appointed to the chair at Sydney and took energetic steps to establish a large and flourishing research school, concentrating on experimental and theoretical studies of the cosmic radiation and on modern theoretical physics, especially nuclear theory.

Prof. Messel has been joined by Dr. E. P. George from London, who will look after the experimental programme; and further new appointments in the experimental team are Dr. A. J. Herz (London), Dr. D. D. Millar (Manchester) and Dr. H. D. Rathgeber (Melbourne), and, in the theoretical team, Dr. J. Blatt (Illinois, U.S.A.), Dr. S. T. Ma (National Research Council, Canada) and Dr. M. R. Schafroth (Liverpool). A number of further appointments will be made shortly, bringing the number of permanent academic staff in the School to twenty-one. Two students from universities in England are already in Sydney, completing their doctoral training, and a number of postdoctoral Fellows from overseas will be arriving early in the new year. To supplement the limited funds available for research from University sources, Prof. Messel has secured support from Australian business men, with the excellent result that £25,000 is available for research equipment this year, and a similar sum promised annually for the future. This has been secured by setting up a Nuclear Research Foundation within the University of Sydney, which allows private individuals and industries to become members. Experiments are planned on air-showers, underground cosmic rays and spectrum measurements. Theoretical investigations are planned on cascade phenomena, fundamental particles, solid state, etc.

South Wales Laboratories of the British Iron and Steel Research Association : Mr. S. S. Carlisle

WE regret that in *Nature* of January 30, p. 191, it was stated that Mr. D. Luther Phillips was being succeeded as head of the South Wales Laboratories of the British Iron and Steel Research Association by Dr. J. Pearson. This is incorrect; Dr. Pearson is head of the Chemistry Department of the Association and is temporarily taking over the duties of head of the Steel-making Division. Mr. Luther Phillips is being succeeded by Mr. S. S. Carlisle. Mr. Carlisle graduated at The Queen's University, Belfast (College of Technology), in electrical engineering and later continued his studies