

studies at the City and Guilds Engineering College, obtaining his A.C.G.I. and B.Sc.(London) and, after some research on high-frequency resistance, his diploma of the Imperial College (D.I.C.).

He joined the National Physical Laboratory in 1921 and soon demonstrated his flair for carrying out a combined theoretical and experimental investigation of various fundamental problems in the radio field. He soon made distinctive, and very practical, contributions to our knowledge of the characteristics of transmitting and receiving aerials, to the development of radio-frequency valve amplifiers, the technique of the precise measurement of current and field-strength at high frequencies and the definition and measurement of interference. He was responsible for the publication of several special reports of the Radio Research Board, outstanding among which is the one entitled "A Theoretical and Experimental Investigation of High Selectivity Tone-Corrected Receiving Circuits". This work, published in 1932, did much to clear the minds of those responsible for the allocation of frequencies for broadcasting and communication services, at a time when confusion of thought made the 'physical reality of sidebands' a subject of serious discussion among certain authorities. Many other papers were contributed to the *Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers*, and to the *Wireless Engineer*, of which periodical he later became a member of the editorial advisory board. He was the author of two books on "Alternating Currents and Transients" and "Basic Mathematics for Radio Students".

On technical committees, as in his laboratory work, Colebrook displayed that outstanding characteristic for starting a penetrating inquiry into matters which had often already been accepted by others, and so bringing to light sometimes a fallacy, and at other times a new and refreshing point of view. As a colleague, he was delightful to work with, and he could be relied upon to produce a novel, if sometimes idealistic, point of view on any new problem; he was always ready to be consulted. I was indeed sorry when, with the formation of the Radio Research Organization, Colebrook was destined to sever his formal association with radio matters and become the leader of the separate team formed at the National Physical Laboratory to develop, into a practical working machine, the mathematician's conception of an automatic electronic computer.

Apart from his work, Colebrook was a man of many tastes. He read voraciously and widely, he had a keen ear for music, and with the aid of a high-fidelity receiver of his own design and construction, he seemed to listen to and enjoy every worthwhile musical broadcasting programme. He had a lively interest in amateur dramatics; he was a keen gardener, and, under the necessities of wartime, took a practical and utilitarian interest in the breeding of rabbits.

It is to be regretted that he was not spared to develop and enjoy these personal and unofficial activities, or even to be invested with the O.B.E., to which he was appointed in June last.

R. L. SMITH-ROSE

NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology : Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe

AFTER an association with the Imperial College of Science and Technology extending, with one intermission, over a period of forty-eight years, Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe now relinquishes the directorship of the laboratories for inorganic and physical chemistry at the College, and retires from his chair of inorganic chemistry in the University of London. Entering the College as a student in 1906, he served after graduation as research assistant to the late Sir Edward Thorpe and afterwards was a member of the teaching staff of the Chemistry Department. In 1921 he was appointed to the chair of inorganic and physical chemistry in Armstrong College (now King's College) at Newcastle upon Tyne, in the University of Durham, succeeding the late Sir Norman Haworth four years later as head of the Chemistry Department. In 1932, however, he returned to the Imperial College to follow Prof. H. B. Baker in the chair of inorganic chemistry, and on the retirement, four years later, of Prof. J. C. Philip, assumed the direction of the laboratories for inorganic and physical chemistry.

Throughout an active academic career Prof. Briscoe has also devoted much attention to researches of industrial importance; he was one of the founders of the Northern Coke Research Committee and has served as president of the Research Association of British Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers. He has also participated in a study of the part played by dangerous dusts in the causation of silicosis and similar maladies. In recent years, Prof. Briscoe has taken much interest in the organization of train-

ing for laboratory service, and is now chairman of the National Joint Committee on Recruitment and Training of Science Laboratory Technicians.

Prof. R. M. Barrer

THE chair of physical chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the University of London, formerly occupied by the late Prof. J. C. Philip, has now been filled by the appointment of Prof. R. M. Barrer. A graduate of Canterbury University College, Christchurch, New Zealand, Prof. Barrer held an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge, afterwards being appointed to a research fellowship. During 1939-46 he was head of the Chemistry Department at Bradford Technical College. In 1946 he left Bradford to take up an appointment as reader at Bedford College, University of London. Since 1949 he has occupied the chair of chemistry in the University of Aberdeen, where he has gathered around him an active school of research in physical chemistry, particularly in those branches of the subject concerned with adsorption, diffusion, and the physicochemical properties generally of permeable materials, especially zeolites.

Physiology at Queen Elizabeth College :

Prof. J. A. C. Knox

DR. JOSEPH ALAN CRUDEN KNOX has been appointed to the chair of physiology tenable at Queen Elizabeth College (University of London) in succession to Prof. J. Yudkin, who has become professor of nutrition in the College. Prof. Knox was born in 1911 and was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Glasgow