

method. During this period the 5-ft. and 24-ft. tunnels came into use.

In 1934 he became head of the Aerodynamics Department, of which the model work was one section. He played a big part in building up a strong department, more elaborate equipment, and enlarged field of work called for by the Second World War.

Dr. Douglas served on the council of the Royal Aeronautical Society during 1946-51, and for many years on the Aerodynamics Committee of the Aeronautical Research Council. He extended his contacts by attending the main international congresses on aerodynamics. He retired in March 1953. Though he would never allow the handicap of his lameness to keep him from clambering about aircraft, balloon shed roofs, ships, or anywhere else where his work lay, he had to pay for the effort involved by sacrificing many other activities. By the time of his retirement, he was over-strained by his unremitting devotion to duty.

To many of us, Dr. Douglas's greatest achievement lay in his personal influence in shaping the Department. He was honest to the core, humble as to his own attainments, and whole-heartedly pleased at the advance and achievement of the many distinguished people who served under him for various periods as young men. Under three ministries, he maintained to a very high measure the Aerodynamics

Department as a place where scientists could grow up and develop their own type of ability, with the minimum of restrictive organization. F. B. BRADFELD

#### Mr. Fred Lincoln

FRED LINCOLN, who has just died at the age of seventy-seven, must have been by far the most widely known laboratory assistant in the world. Almost all the leading physicists in the Commonwealth and many in other countries have worked in the Cavendish Laboratory at one time or another, and to all of them Lincoln was one of its main institutions. He joined the staff as a laboratory boy in 1893, and when I was a student Lincoln had already been the head assistant for many years. When I returned to Cambridge thirty years later as Cavendish professor, there was Lincoln in the same position and quite unchanged in appearance and energy. His fierce eye and even fiercer moustache still induced a very proper respect in the young research worker applying to him for apparatus or stores, and the kindness, humour and loyalty to the Laboratory, which had earned our admiration and affection, were the same as ever. When a presentation was made to him on the occasion of his retirement, contributions came from physicists all over the world, who will now be sad at the passing of a great figure and a warm friend.

W. L. BRAGG

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Royal Society : Award of Royal Medals

H.M. THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year as follows: Sir John Cockcroft, director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, for his distinguished work on nuclear and atomic physics; Prof. H. A. Krebs, Whitley professor of biochemistry in the University of Oxford, for his distinguished contributions to biochemistry.

### Chemistry at Aberdeen : Dr. G. M. Burnett

DR. G. M. BURNETT, at present lecturer in chemistry in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the chair of chemistry in the University of Aberdeen at the early age of thirty-three. Dr. Burnett succeeds Prof. R. M. Barrer, who has gone to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London (see *Nature*, July 31, p. 205). Educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, he graduated with first-class honours in chemistry at Aberdeen in 1943. Owing to war-time requirements, he became an assistant in the Physics Department at Aberdeen, with special responsibility for dealing with the supplies of radium for the hospitals in the north-east of Scotland. In his meagre spare time at that period, he started research on the problem of determining the absolute rate constants and radical concentration in liquid-phase free-radical polymerization reactions. He very quickly succeeded in obtaining an exact solution to this problem, and was in fact the first to do so. The extension and exploitation of this work have been his main preoccupation during his stay in Aberdeen and, since 1948, in Birmingham. Dr. Burnett has written many papers covering all aspects of this field, and these have culminated in the publication of a book on polymer reactions, which

forms a landmark in describing and reviewing critically this important branch of polymer chemistry and reaction kinetics.

### Pure Mathematics at Birmingham :

Prof. C. A. Rogers

DR. C. A. ROGERS has been elected to the Mason professorship of pure mathematics in the University of Birmingham in succession to Prof. R. A. Rankin, who has gone to Glasgow (see *Nature*, April 3, p. 615). Dr. Rogers, who is thirty-three, graduated at University College, London, in 1941, and after war service in the Applied Ballistics Department (Ministry of Supply) returned to that College as a research student in 1945. He was appointed assistant lecturer in 1946 and lecturer in 1949. The title of reader in mathematics was conferred on him in 1953. Dr. Rogers was awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in 1949 and spent the session 1949-50 at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Dr. Rogers has published some forty papers, many of which are substantial memoirs. Most of his work has been on the theory of numbers, and in particular on the geometry of numbers. In 1947 he gave a new and simple proof (*Ann. Math.*, 48, 367; 1947) of the theorem of Minkowski and Hlawka, and this has proved to be the starting-point for much later work by himself and others. In a memoir published in *Acta Math.*, 82, 185 (1950), he applied to the geometry of numbers a new inequality obtained by solving an integral equation. Jointly with A. Dvoretzky he has solved an outstanding problem in the theory of Banach spaces (*Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 36, 192; 1950). Dr. Rogers's work has given him an international reputation as a pure mathematician, and he is also well known to many for his work in statistics and for his wide interests in science generally.