

specifically with this subject, his ingenuity in the devising of novel organic syntheses has been due to the originality of his thoughts in the application of electronic concepts in the laboratory. Undoubtedly, recent achievements of other synthetic organic chemists throughout the world depend to a very great extent upon applications of reactions first described by Sir Robert's research school; without question this will be equally evident for many years to come.

Prof. E. R. H. Jones, F.R.S.

PROF. E. R. H. JONES, who is to succeed Sir Robert Robinson, is at present Sir Samuel Hall professor of chemistry in the University of Manchester. He will leave Manchester after a stay of eight years, during which he has contributed much to the already high reputation of its school of chemistry. His influence in the University extends far beyond the limits of his department, for his time and wise counsels have been given generously in many directions. Prof. Jones is perhaps best known for his work in the acetylene field, which he began at Manchester as a Research Fellow and continued both at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and again at Manchester as professor. Closely allied to this work has been the synthesis of polyenes, culminating in the synthesis of vitamin A<sub>2</sub>. He has also contributed very largely to the knowledge of the chemistry of triterpenes and steroids and was responsible for devising a synthesis of cortisone. His interests have more recently been extended to investigations of fungal products and of plant-growth hormones such as  $\beta$ -indolylacetonitrile. His influence on chemistry has not been confined to the researches which he has directly initiated and inspired. It has also resulted from his gift for stimulating and encouraging all his colleagues, and it is in this way that he has built up in Manchester the present very active school of organic chemistry.

#### Fluid Mechanics in the University of Liverpool:

Dr. J. H. Preston

DR. J. H. PRESTON, reader in engineering in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the new chair of fluid mechanics in the University of Liverpool. He will develop the study of fluid mechanics in the Department of Engineering, considering applications in civil and mechanical engineering and in naval architecture. Dr. Preston joined the staff of the Aerodynamics Division, National Physical Laboratory, in 1938, after some years of research at Queen Mary College, London, and at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. His work at the National Physical Laboratory was mainly on boundary layers and their effects on the behaviour of aerofoils, and on the control of boundary layers by suction through slots or through a porous surface. In 1946 Dr. Preston was appointed lecturer in aeronautics in the University of Cambridge. At Cambridge, he continued his work on the control of boundary layers by suction and on the effects of boundary layers on the characteristics of aerofoils. He also worked on secondary flow and on problems related to the control of the circulation around an aerofoil. He has recently developed a method of measuring skin friction on a surface with a turbulent boundary layer, using a single pitot tube. He is now working on the prediction of skin friction at high Reynolds numbers, with special reference to ship resistance.

#### Awards of Gauss-Weber Medals

DR. J. M. STAGG, principal deputy director, Meteorological Office, has been awarded a Gauss-Weber medal by the Academy of Science, Göttingen, "for his researches in geomagnetism, especially his discussion of the Fort Rae Polar Year (1932-3) data and the investigations arising therefrom, so furthering the aims which Gauss and Weber envisaged when they set up the Magnetic Union in 1831". The following five Continental scientists, distinguished in the fields in which Gauss and his contemporary Weber had made fundamental contributions, also received Gauss-Weber medals: Prof. Walther Bauersfeld, creator of the Zeiss planetarium (astronomy); Prof. John Eggert, Zurich (astrophysics); Prof. Heinz Hopf, Zurich, for contributions to differential and algebraic geometry; Prof. Richard Feldtkeller, Stuttgart, for electro-acoustics and electronic measuring technique, and Prof. Werner Kleen, Munich, for work on electronic valves. The presentations were made on February 19 at a ceremony in the University Hall, Göttingen, arranged by the University and the Academy of Science to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the death of Carl Friedrich Gauss. Sir Geoffrey Taylor represented the Royal Society at the ceremony. The chief address in honour of Gauss and Weber was given by Dr. Richard Courant, New York.

#### University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

THE following appointments, the first to be made to the academic staff of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, have been announced: chair of Chemistry: Dr. S. H. Harper, reader in organic chemistry, King's College, University of London; chair of African Studies: Dr. J. C. Mitchell, director of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute; chair of English: Dr. N. H. MacKenzie, senior lecturer in English in the University of Natal; Librarian: Mr. D. A. Clarke, deputy librarian of the University of Leeds.

#### Geophysical Observatory, Quetta

THE Department of Advertising, Films and Publications of the Ministry of Education, Pakistan, has issued a booklet entitled "The Geophysical Observatory, Quetta: a Study in Technical Assistance" (pp. 35+4 plates. Karachi: Ministry of Education, 1955). As explained in the preface by S. M. Sharif, educational adviser to the Ministry of Education, a project was initiated in 1950 through an agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, whereby expert technical advice and equipment in certain aspects of geophysics, particularly in seismology, geomagnetism and atmospheric physics, would be given; four geophysicists were recruited from various countries, including Great Britain, and arrived in Pakistan during February-June 1951. Through the service rendered by these experts and the whole-hearted co-operation of the government departments concerned, the Observatory of Quetta, in the words of the Educational Adviser, "is now ranked by competent authorities to be one of the finest institutions of its kind in South East Asia". The booklet is divided into two parts, the first of which deals with development in five different phases from the creation of Pakistan in 1947 up to recent times. The fifth phase began when, having been developed by outside help, the Observatory was in a position to offer technical