

in which he gave any casual group of research workers a sense of belonging to a lively and friendly community. Passing visitors enjoyed the hospitality which he and his wife were always

ready to offer; they left as lasting friends. Everyone who in any way came into contact with him will ever remember his colourful and lovable personality.

L. ROSENFELD

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Foreign Members of the Royal Society

THE following have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society:

George Washington Corner (Baltimore), distinguished for his work on the endocrine control of gestation and especially on the function of the corpus luteum in mammals;

Werner Heisenberg (Göttingen), distinguished for his basic contributions to quantum theory;

Lise Meitner (Stockholm), distinguished for her fundamental discoveries in radioactivity and nuclear physics;

Otto Renner (Munich), distinguished for his researches in plant physiology and nuclear and cytoplasmic genetics.

### Rumford Premium of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

THE Rumford Medal and Premium for 1955 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has been awarded to Prof. James Franck, professor of physical chemistry in the University of Chicago. The award was established in 1796 by Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, to be given to "the author of the most important discovery or useful improvement on heat or on light", and was first given in 1839. Prof. Franck was formerly professor of physics and director of the Physical Institute in Göttingen, Germany. In 1925 he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Gustav Hertz. He left Germany in 1933 and began a new scientific career in the field of photosynthesis, first at Johns Hopkins University and later at the University of Chicago. Since Rumford stipulated that the Premium be granted for discoveries made and published upon the American continent, it has been specifically awarded to Prof. Franck for his important contributions to photosynthesis, both theoretical and experimental.

### Royal Aeronautical Society: Awards

HONORARY fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society has been conferred on Dr. Igor I. Sikorsky and on Mr. H. Grinstead. The following awards have been made by the Society: *R. P. Alston Memorial Prize*, G. A. V. Tyson, for contributions on flight testing of marine aircraft; *Edward Busk Memorial Prize*, J. C. Wimpenny, for a paper on the stability and control in aircraft design; *Herbert Alroyd Stuart Memorial Prize*, E. E. Chatterton, for a paper on compound diesel engines for aircraft; *Usborne Memorial Prize*, L. F. Crabtree, for a paper on the compressible laminar boundary layer on a yawed infinite wing; *Orville Wright Prize*, D. B. Spalding and B. S. Tall, for their paper on flame stabilization in high-velocity gas streams and the effect of heat losses at low pressures; *J. E. Hodgson Prize*, jointly to Major G. P. Bulman, for the first Barnwell Memorial Lecture, and J. Smith, for the first Mitchell Memorial Lecture; *Branch Prize*, E. Chambers, for a paper on meteorological services for the *Comet*; *Royal Aeronautical Society Navigation Prize*, J. F. W. Mercer,

for a paper on a quantitative study of instrument approach. Two awards will be made from the Society's R.38 Memorial Fund: to Lord Ventry, to assist him in the carrying out of experiments and to help in the development of the airship *Bournemouth*; and to W. N. Alcock, to assist him in his further investigations in connexion with airships.

### Honorary Associates of the City of Birmingham College of Technology

AT a ceremony on April 30, celebrating the diamond jubilee of the City of Birmingham College of Technology, honorary associatship of the College was conferred on the following: Dr. James C. Duff, formerly head of the Department of Chemistry of the College; Sir Leonard Lord, chairman of the British Motor Corporation; Sir Frederick Handley Page, chairman of Handley Page, Ltd.; Mr. A. B. Waring, chairman and managing director of Joseph Lucas, Ltd.; Lieut.-General Sir Ronald Weeks, chairman of Vickers, Ltd.; and Mr. T. Williamson, general secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.

### Bohuslav Brauner (1855-1935)

BOHUSLAV BRAUNER, who was born in Prague one hundred years ago on May 8, 1855, was descended on his mother's side from a family eminent in chemistry and in pharmacy. Accustomed from an early age to speaking English, French, German and Russian at home, he became a remarkable linguist. He was educated at the local university and technical school and, after working with R. W. Bunsen at Heidelberg, he studied under Sir Henry Roscoe at Manchester, being particularly interested in the rare elements. In 1881 he was elected to a Berkeley fellowship at Owens College, Manchester, and began to correspond with D. I. Mendeléeff, whose periodic system of grouping the elements aroused his admiration; the two became lifelong friends. Brauner succeeded in preparing a double fluoride of tetravalent cerium and potassium, which on gentle heating gave off free fluorine—the first time this had been obtained by purely chemical means. He was appointed lecturer in chemistry at the Charles University in Prague in 1883, assistant professor in 1890 and full professor in 1897. He was a voluminous writer, and contributed the section on the rare earths for Mendeléeff's "Principles of Chemistry" and a critical discussion on atomic weights to Abegg's "Handbuch der Anorganischen Chemie". The new base, O = 16.000, long advocated by him, was generally adopted at the Paris Congress in 1900. Brauner was a man of giant frame, commanding voice and sarcastic wit; his interest in various sciences included a special one in astronomy. An honorary D.Sc. of the University of Manchester and an honorary Fellow of the Chemical Society (London), he retired in 1925 after completing forty-three years of teaching, and died of pneumonia on February 15, 1935, in his eightieth year.