

administration. He hopes during his retirement to complete a monumental text-book, the first volume of which has already appeared, and to pursue further the study of botany in other lands.

Prof. G. F. Asprey

PROF. G. F. ASPREY, who is to succeed Prof. R. C. McLean, has been professor of botany in the University College of the West Indies since 1948. Prof. Asprey is forty-six years of age, and is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, where he specialized in the field of plant physiology. Afterwards he joined the staff of the University of Glasgow and held there a Carnegie fellowship during 1934-37, and was appointed lecturer in botany. During almost the whole of the War period he served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in charge of the maintenance of radar equipment in the field. Latterly, he went to the Army Formation College at Stourport, where he was head of the biology section. After a short period back in Glasgow, he went in 1947 to the University of Aberdeen as lecturer in plant physiology, and from there the following year to Jamaica. In the West Indies he was faced with the task of planning and building up an entirely new department in which active teaching had to begin almost immediately. It is not hard to understand the difficulties involved in such a position; but the new professor was also called upon to serve as dean of the Science Faculty and as a member or chairman of numerous administrative committees and, for some months, as acting principal of the College. He leaves his Department well equipped and actively engaged in research in plant physiology, ecology and pathology. Prof. Asprey's primary interest has been in physiology; but he has added to this, in later years, ecological, taxonomic and economic studies on the West Indies vegetation particularly, and extensive work on the medicinal plants of Jamaica. He therefore takes to the University of Wales a breadth of experience and interests which should be of great benefit in his new surroundings.

Safety in Mines Research Establishment :

Mr. H. T. Ramsay

MR. H. T. RAMSAY has been appointed director of the Safety in Mines Research Establishment of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. He succeeds Mr. A. H. A. Wynn, who resigned on his appointment to membership of the National Coal Board. Mr. Ramsay was born in 1907 and graduated from the University of London in 1932. For much of his career he served under Sir Clifford Patterson at the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, working on the application of discharges in gases to high-voltage rectification and related projects. In 1939 this work was found to have applications to radar, and his group worked on these problems throughout the War. In 1944 he was appointed to the leading staff of the laboratories and in 1948 he left the General Electric Company to join the Armaments Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where he worked on problems of fighter armament. In 1949 Mr. Ramsay moved to guided missile development, where he led a group studying associated analytical and electro-mechanical problems. Early in 1953 he went to the headquarters of the Ministry of Supply to supervise a group of major industrial projects associated with this work. In 1954 he joined the Ministry of Fuel and Power and was appointed to the Safety in Mines Research Establishment.

Element 101 : Mendelevium

At a recent meeting of the American Physical Society, reported in *The Observer* of May 1 and *The Times* of May 2, an announcement was made of the preparation of yet another new element, namely, element 101. The credit for this latest achievement in nuclear science goes again to Prof. G. T. Seaborg and his collaborators at the University of California, Berkeley. Very few details about the new element are as yet available. It has been produced by bombardments of lighter elements in the cyclotron, and only a few atoms of it have been observed; nevertheless, the power of the methods used by the Berkeley team is such that identification can be regarded as certain. Although new names are still not forthcoming for elements 99 and 100, which were reported first more than a year ago, it is interesting to see that the name proposed for element 101 is 'mendelevium', presumably with symbol Me. This is a striking tribute to the Russian founder of the modern Periodic System of the elements, and implies that the chemical properties of the element agree, so far as they have been studied, with what is to be expected for an analogue of thulium. That the very heaviest elements should show rare-earth-like properties is now, of course, firmly established. One looks forward to the completion of this group of elements, at element 103; the investigation of element 104, if it ever becomes possible, will indeed constitute one of the most rigorous tests of modern conceptions of the electronic structure of the elements.

Maintenance Rates for State Scholars

DETAILS of the new maintenance rates for students at universities, announced by the Minister of Education, Sir David Eccles, in the House of Commons on April 26, have been published as Ministry Circular 285 and Administrative Memorandum No. 502 and sent to local education authorities. The arrangements are intended in the first place for State scholars and other holders of Ministry awards; but the Circular urges on all local education authorities the desirability that all students who attend a particular university with awards from public sources should receive grants at the same rates and on the same basis of assessment, and that accordingly the proposed arrangements should be adopted as soon as possible by all local education authorities. The new rates for board and lodging during term-time, which represent an increase of about 10 per cent and include an allowance for travelling expenses of £10-5, range from £283 to £225 for resident students and £171 (London) or £156 (elsewhere) for those living at home. The normal rate of vacation allowances will continue to be in the range £25-20; but the higher allowances for those in special need have been increased to £47 10s.-£38 10s.; the additional rate paid to students for an approved course of study away from home during vacation has also been increased to £3 10s. Students will now be allowed to retain prizes and awards of merit in the form of single payments up to £100 in any one year, and the annual honorarium paid to State scholars who do not qualify for assistance or hold any other award will be raised to £50.

In assessing parental contributions towards the cost of university education of State scholars, the deduction allowed from gross income for each wholly dependent child (other than the scholar) will be increased to £150, as will the maximum allowance for educational expenses and school fees and the maximum allowed for other dependants, while the