Dr. J. W. Nicholson, F.R.S.

MAY I supplement Prof. W. Wilson's account of Dr. J. W. Nicholson in *Nature* of December 3 with a reminder that throughout most of his working life Nicholson was prominent on the British Association Mathematical Tables Committee, of which he was secretary from 1910 until 1920 and then chairman until his retirement? It is to be regretted that his name is nowhere conspicuous in the volumes issued by the Committee after 1930, for it was under his influence that a number of people, each with a pet function or a pet range of his own, became a body concerned

collectively with the principles and problems of computation and presentation. The decade in which the Committee regained and enhanced the prestige which it had enjoyed in the nineteenth century was preceded by a decade of exploration, discussion, and anxious self-criticism; and it was owing to Nicholson's mathematical versatility and uncanny power of focusing attention on the essential points on both sides of any argument that a decade as unspectacular as a wheatfield in spring was also as rich in vitality and in promise destined to be fulfilled.

E. H. NEVILLE

NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at the Royal Holloway College, London:
Dr. E. J. Bourne

DR. E. J. BOURNE, reader in organic chemistry in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the chair of chemistry at the Royal Holloway College, University of London, in succession to the late Prof. G. Williams. Dr. Bourne, who is thirty-three years old, received his early education at Rugeley Grammar School and entered the University of Birmingham in 1939. He graduated with first-class honours in 1942, gaining the Frankland Medal and Prize and a University research scholarship. He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1945 and his D.Sc. in 1953. He has published some eighty papers and has gained an international reputation for his work on carbohydrates, particularly in the field of starch chemistry. His most notable early work, carried out in close association with the late Sir Norman Haworth and Prof. S. Peat, was on the isolation and characterization of the well-known 'Q' enzyme which synthesizes the amylopectin component of starch. He has made outstanding contributions to the enzymic synthesis and degradation of starch and other polysaccharides such as nigeran and dextran. His more recent work, largely carried out in collaboration with Prof. M. Stacey and numerous pupils, has been concerned with the chromatography and infra-red examination of sugars, application of carbon-14 in carbohydrate synthesis and the biological synthesis of oligosaccharides. With Dr. J. C. Tatlow he has made notable contributions to the reactions of trifluoroacetic acid. At present he is interested in the effects of γ -radiation on organic reactions and on some theoretical considerations regarding the formation of acetals. At Birmingham he has had wide experience in lecturing and in the organization of various laboratory courses, including extra-mural classes. He has served on the Faculty Boards of Biological Science and of Pure Science. He has been a particularly active member of the Midland Chemists Committee and has served as a local secretary for the meetings of the British Association and the Society of Chemical Industry and at present is a member of council of the Chemical Society.

Physics in the University of Hull:

Prof. G. F. J. Garlick

DR. G. F. J. GARLICK, lecturer in physics in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Hull, which has been vacant since the retirement of Prof. L. S. Palmer in 1954. Dr. Garlick was educated at Wednesbury Boys' High School and in the University of

Birmingham. After graduation, he remained at Birmingham to take part in war-time studies of luminescent materials under the leadership of J. T. Randall, who as a Royal Society Research Fellow had already established a laboratory for the study of luminescence within the Department of Physics. During this period, Dr. Garlick gained not only enthusiasm for a branch of physics that was in rapid development, but also knowledge of the physical and chemical techniques upon which its further progress must be based. When Randall was appointed to the chair of physics at St. Andrews, Garlick was the only member of his group to remain in Birmingham and to continue this work, which for some years after the War was supported by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He re-established a small but active group, whose interests were soon extended from polycrystalline materials bombarded with electrons or ultra-violet light to a wider field including the use of α -particles and particularly of single crystals, in the growth of which he and his colleagues became highly expert. Latterly, studies have been made of phosphors emitting in the infra-red and of photoconductivity due to infra-red radiation. Dr. Garlick was appointed in 1949 to a University lectureship in Birmingham and has sustained a full share of teaching with no perceptible slackening in the flow of research publications. He is the author of a well-known monograph on luminescent materials and of several review articles.

Environmental Control in Crop Experimental Work

DR. J. P. HUDSON, of the Department of Horticulture, University of Nottingham, has completed the first draft of a directory of equipment at present in use in universities and research stations in Great Britain for providing control of experimental environments. It is hoped eventually to publish it, under the title "Environmental Control Equipment in Britain", as Miscellaneous Publication No. 8 of the Department. Dr. Hudson is anxious that the directory should be as complete and accurate as possible, and will be pleased to send copies of the draft to any interested individuals or organizations who have not already been referred to, and to incorporate details of their installations in the final publication. The preliminary draft gives an account of the principles of environmental control, and of the different methods used to achieve it, as well as the list of existing installations. The use of controlled-environment equipment is rapidly spreading, and this directory should greatly assist anyone planning a new installation, by making it easy to draw on the experience of users of similar equipment.