

prestressed by his system—as a consulting engineer he had an international reputation.

As a university professor, Magnel was acknowledged to be outstanding. His lectures were remarkable for their clarity of exposition, and the same quality marked his writings. His numerous technical books are standard text-books; they cover a wide range of subjects, and contain an unusual wealth of practical detail. Chief among his published works are: "Pratique du Calcul du Béton Armé" in four volumes, of which Volume 4 is "Le Béton Précontraint", "Cours de Stabilité des Constructions" in four volumes—the complete University course in structures—and "Le Calcul pratique des Poutres Vierendeel" "Le Béton Précontraint" has been translated into English, and published in Great Britain. He was also the author of numerous papers in French and English (in a paper given before the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1949 he introduced the Magnel-Blaton system of prestressing to Britain), and he initiated the publication of the bilingual periodical *Précontrainte-Prestressing*.

As a lecturer, Prof. Magnel was well known in the United States and in South Africa, as well as in

Britain, his perfect command of English no less than his command of his subject always ensuring him an appreciative audience. Wherever he went he was an outspoken crusader for high-quality concrete and was forthright in his condemnation of slipshod workmanship.

Prof. Magnel had been honoured both in Great Britain and in the United States as well as in Belgium. A member of the Belgian Royal Academy, he was elected a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers in 1934, and of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1950. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Concrete Institute, and a holder of the American Frank P. Brown Medal. He was chairman of the Belgian Prestressed Concrete Group, and senior vice-president of the International Federation of Prestressing. In this capacity his keen intellect, sound judgment and always unruffled courtesy, as well as his genius for smooth organization, will be sadly missed at the forthcoming International Congress at Amsterdam. His dynamic, yet always kindly, personality will be missed by all who knew him.

BETTY CAMPBELL

NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at the Imperial College, London :

Prof. E. A. R. Braude

IN taking up the appointment of professor of organic chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, Dr. E. A. R. Braude follows a distinguished line starting with Hofmann and continuing to recent times through Frankland, Armstrong, Tilden, Thorpe and Heilbron. South Kensington has been celebrated not only as a centre of research in the subject but also as a training ground for students, from the time of Perkins, father and son, onwards. In the appointment of Dr. Braude the College has selected one of the leading young British organic chemists, who has a wide and important range of interests; at the same time, it has secured the services of one deeply experienced in the special educational methods associated with this school. Dr. Braude was born in 1922. After a distinguished undergraduate career at the Imperial College, he continued there as a postgraduate research student under Sir Ian Heilbron. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1945. He was appointed assistant lecturer in 1946, lecturer in 1947, and reader in organic chemistry in 1952. He was awarded the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry for 1950, and received the D.Sc. degree in the same year. He is a member of the Council of the Chemical Society.

Prof. G. Wilkinson

THE chair of inorganic chemistry in the University of London tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, from which Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe retired last year, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. G. Wilkinson, who graduated there as a Royal Scholar in 1941 and was elected Frank Hatton prizeman. Dr. Wilkinson then undertook research in inorganic chemistry at the College until, in 1943, he was appointed to a research post in the joint British-Canadian-United States atomic energy project, serving for three years at Montreal and at Chalk River. After the War, he was a research associate,

engaged in Prof. G. T. Seaborg's laboratory in the University of California, on investigations of radioisotopes leading to quantitative studies of the reaction of high-energy protons with the heavier elements; he later held a similar post in Prof. C. D. Coryell's laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working on the conditions of formation of complexes by phosphorus halides. Since 1951, as assistant professor of chemistry at Harvard University, he has been directing a research group studying, *inter alia*, the properties of bis-cyclopentadienyl compounds of the transitional elements, and in association with Prof. R. B. Woodward and others has been responsible for considerable progress in this new field of chemistry. Last year Prof. Wilkinson, as John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, spent some months in Prof. J. Bjerrum's laboratory at Copenhagen. By his delight in experimental investigation, his experience as a lecturer on inorganic and nuclear chemistry, and his administrative services as secretary to the Department of Chemistry at Harvard, he will take to the Imperial College enthusiasm for the development of studies in modern aspects of inorganic chemistry and wide knowledge of the facilities now available for that purpose.

Physics at King's College, London :

Prof. W. C. Price

HIS many friends on both sides of the Atlantic will be pleased to know that the title of professor of physics in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. W. C. Price in respect of his appointment at King's College. Dr. Price has held the post of reader in experimental physics in the College for several years, and is well known as a spectroscopist who has worked mainly on the structure of polyatomic molecules, both in the vacuum ultra-violet and in the infra-red spectral regions. He was the first to show that the short-wave spectra of a large number of basic molecules, such as acetylene, ethylene, benzene, water, the alkyl halides, etc., can