

Biochemistry of Micro-organisms". This work received very favourable comment; the Sc.D. (Cantab.) and the fellowship of the Royal Society soon followed. The major part of his research work during the tenure of his chair has been devoted to the continuation of the studies on micro-fungi, and the contributions in this main series of papers which has flowed from his laboratory now number nearly one hundred. Prof. Raistrick has served as secretary of the Biochemical Society and has devoted much time to administrative and advisory duties in the University of London. During the Second World War he was honorary scientific adviser on penicillin production to the Minister of Supply; in 1949 he was Bakerian Lecturer of the Royal Society.

Prof. J. H. Birkinshaw

DR. JOHN HOWARD BIRKINSHAW, who is already reader in biochemistry in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is to succeed Prof. Raistrick. Like Prof. Raistrick, Birkinshaw is a graduate of the University of Leeds, eventually gaining the degrees of M.Sc. and D.Sc. from that University. In the First World War he held a commission in the West Yorkshire Regiment, took part in the Somme offensive and was captured at Delville Wood, to be repatriated shortly after the Armistice in 1918. He commenced his research career as a research biochemist in the Ardeer Factory of the Nobel's Explosives Co. Here began his long association with Prof. Raistrick, whom he succeeded as chemist in charge of the Biochemical Department at Ardeer when Raistrick moved to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 1931, the senior staff of the Biochemical Department at Ardeer moved to Prof. Raistrick's department in London, where Birkinshaw remained until 1937, when he went for a year to the I.C.I. Research Station at Jealott's Hill to work on the conservation of grass protein. In the following year, he was appointed senior lecturer in Raistrick's department at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, becoming a reader in the University of London in 1945. Dr. Birkinshaw is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, and has been a secretary of the Biochemical Society. The greater part of his research has been devoted to the study of metabolic products of micro-fungi, a field which he and Prof. Raistrick have together developed with great distinction.

Psychology at Oxford : Prof. G. Humphrey

WHEN Prof. George Humphrey retires from the chair of psychology in the University of Oxford next September, he will be able to look back over the past nine years with great satisfaction. He went to Oxford in 1947, after a distinguished career in the United States and Canada, returning as a professor to the University which he had first attended as an undergraduate. Anybody who visited the Institute of Experimental Psychology, in the Banbury Road, then, and who revisits it now, will speedily realize how great a development has taken place. It is fair to say that psychology at Oxford has made more advances during these years than at any earlier period, and in particular that excellent working relations have been established with other academic studies. All is now well in train for still more striking developments. It is remarkable that, with all this, Prof. Humphrey has also found the time to complete and publish those studies in the experimental

psychology of thinking for which he has now become known throughout the world.

Prof. R. C. Oldfield

PROF. R. C. OLDFIELD, who is to succeed Prof. George Humphrey at Oxford, took his first training at Cambridge, reading the Natural Science Tripos, Part 1, and Moral Sciences Tripos, Part 2. He was an exhibitioner in moral sciences at Peterhouse and held the Arnold Gerstenberg studentship in philosophy, and the Leverhulme fellowship in industrial psychology. For a time he worked with Prof. Cairns in Oxford on head injuries, holding a Rockefeller research fellowship. During the Second World War he was with the Radar Branch of the R.A.F., being mentioned in dispatches. After a period of lecturing at Oxford, first in general then in experimental psychology, he was called to the chair at Reading in 1950. He was a founder-member of the Experimental Psychology Group and edited the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology* for some years, and still serves as associate editor. His interests in psychology have been unusually broad, extending from applied psychology (his monograph on the "Psychology of the Interview" is well known) to the effects of head injuries and the contrivance of a number of ingenious pieces of apparatus such as that for the continuous recording of sensory thresholds. In addition, he has published many experimental and theoretical papers covering a wide range of subjects. During his six years tenure of the chair, the department at Reading has steadily increased its reputation for progressive experimental work.

Mathematics at Glasgow : Prof. I. N. Sneddon

PROF. I. N. SNEDDON, of the University College of North Staffordshire, has been appointed to the newly created Simson chair of mathematics in the University of Glasgow. Named after Robert Simson, who was professor of mathematics in Glasgow during 1711-61, the new chair has been set up in order to strengthen the link between the Mathematics Department and the Faculty of Engineering. The new professor will be responsible for the mathematics courses given to students of engineering and for the advancement and exposition of mathematical methods. The need for engineers skilled in mathematical techniques of various kinds has never been greater than at the present time, and there is great scope for the holder of such a chair to meet this need and develop his subject. It would be hard to find anyone better fitted to do this work than Prof. Sneddon. Appointed at the early age of thirty to the chair of mathematics at the University College of North Staffordshire, he has been responsible for the setting up and working out of new courses of mathematics there and has still found time to carry on his own research work and write several books, as well as doing valuable work on committees of the Scientific Advisory Council. He has an impressive range of mathematical techniques at his disposal which he has applied to a wide range of subjects in applied mathematics and theoretical physics. His main work has been on elasticity, and his recent work on the generation of waves in elastic solids by variable body forces is of particular interest.

Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. : Physics Appointments

DR. E. U. CONDON, visiting professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed