

of flagellar movement and the density of aquatic organisms. In such matters he usually had much of right on his side, but his simple approach sometimes let him down. The value of his work was recognized by the award of the Cambridge Sc.D.

He gave up his career at Marlborough to undertake research in a leper colony in West Africa, where he stayed for eighteen months. When asked why he had left he replied, "Well, it is obvious why the natives get leprosy and I told the authorities so, but they wouldn't listen to me. Since we have stopped them eating each other the only protein they get is an occasional snake".

After this he taught in a number of schools, though never with quite the same success as at Marlborough. He declared that of all the nine headmasters he had served under none could hold a candle to Norwood. He continued investigations on various biological and geological subjects, receiving much hospitality from the Marine Biological Association at Plymouth.

Lowndes carried always something of the sea about him, in his rolling gait, his simple directness and sharpness of observation. His influence will be felt by his pupils for more than one generation, and his contributions to knowledge of Crustacea may last even longer than that.

J. Z. YOUNG

NEWS and VIEWS

Directorship of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association :

Mr. A. J. Philpot, C.B.E.

MR. A. J. PHILPOT will retire in June from the directorship of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association, a post which he has held since 1937. Mr. Philpot had a distinguished academic career at King's College, London, and later, after active service in the First World War, at Cambridge in the Cavendish Laboratory under Lord Rutherford. In 1920 he joined the staff of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association soon after its foundation as the first of the co-operative industrial research associations to be established. As senior physicist of the Association he accomplished a large amount of experimental work, the results being recorded in publications and twenty-one research reports on subjects as varied as X-ray tubes, the stability of glasses, luminous compounds, thermometer liquids and the deposition by volatilization of reflecting surfaces on glass. In 1937 Mr. Philpot was appointed director of research and secretary of the Association, in succession to Dr. Harry Moore, and soon his responsibilities were greatly enlarged by the Second World War. In 1943 he was appointed chairman of the new Inter-Service Optical Instrument Committee which did vital co-ordinating work. Though the laboratories of the Association, in Russell Square, London, were damaged by a bomb, many firms new to instrument manufacture were helped to master the problems of design and production, and the end of the War found the Association with a greatly increased membership but quite inadequate laboratory space. New premises were found on the outskirts of London, new departments were established and new staff engaged, and Mr. Philpot found himself director of an organization which had multiplied its size by five in a couple of years. At the same time, he undertook new duties, being for a number of years director of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association, the trade association of the industry. Mr. Philpot has played an active part in the affairs of scientific societies concerned with physics and instruments, and has been vice-president and treasurer of the Physical Society, vice-president of the Institute of Physics, and vice-president of the Society of Instrument Technology.

Dr. J. Thomson

DR. J. THOMSON, who will succeed Mr. Philpot, is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, being

awarded the Kelvin Medal of the University in 1932 for research in mathematical and experimental physics. He lectured in physics at the Universities of Reading and Glasgow until the end of 1939, when he joined the Admiralty Signal School at Portsmouth. During the Second World War he was engaged in research on microwave devices, and his work included service with a Royal Marine Commando Unit throughout the German campaign. After the War he was appointed professor of physics and electrical engineering in the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and later he became the deputy director of physical research (C.V.D.) at the Admiralty with responsibility for research and development in the field of electronic valves on behalf of the three Armed Services. Last year he also undertook the editorship of the new *Journal of Electronics*. His published work includes three books and many research papers.

Presidency of the Society of Glass Technology :

Dr. J. H. Partridge

At the annual general meeting of the Society of Glass Technology, held in Sheffield on April 25, Dr. J. H. Partridge was elected president, in succession to Sir Graham Cunningham, who has retired after serving for two years. Dr. Partridge graduated in metallurgy from the University of Birmingham in 1924, and four years later joined the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Co., Ltd.; he is now head of the Company's Glass, Refractories and Ceramics Department. He has published more than thirty papers on studies relating to metals, glass and refractories and is the author of "Refractory Blocks for Glass Tank Furnaces" (1933) and "Glass-to-Metal Seals" (1947). Dr. Partridge has been a vice-president of the Society of Glass Technology and was honorary general secretary during 1946-49.

New Foreign Members of the Royal Society

THE following have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society: Kai Ulric Linderström-Lang (Copenhagen), distinguished for his contribution to protein chemistry and for his pioneer development of ultra micro-techniques for the biochemical study of the localization of enzymes in tissue cells; Hans Pettersson (Göteborg), distinguished for his researches in oceanography; Robert Burns Woodward (Cambridge, U.S.A.), distinguished for his investigations in organic chemistry, especially on the synthesis of important natural products such as quinine, cortisone and antibiotics; Fritz Zernike (Gröningen), dis-