

an Analysis of his Style, based on his Sketchbook" (1929). She also edited Berg's "Nomogenesis". Another side of her character is revealed by numerous articles, many of them studies of children and some of them childhood memories, which were published during the period 1913-19 in the *Manchester Guardian* and other periodicals. A course of broadcast talks for schools formed the basis of her book "The Animal's World" (1936), which appeals to adults even more than to children, and which reached an enlarged new edition in 1950. For many years Prof. Mackinnon worked on the preparation of her *opus magnum*, an illustrated text-book on protozoology, but she did not live to see this work quite completed. There is every hope, however, that it will appear in the near future, and those knowing the unusually fine quality of her teaching will look forward to its appearance.

As a colleague of Prof. Mackinnon for twenty years, I can vouch for the smoothness with which she ran her Department. She was an able administrator, and such a friend to her staff that her merest wish was equal to her command. Always ready to seek advice on such technical matters as perplexed her, she was equally ready to offer guidance to staff and students, whether on academic or personal matters. Many would testify to her kindness to them, for she lived for communion with her students, past and present. How she found time and energy to write to so many students so often and so fully, I for one cannot guess; but her self-imposed duty must have given joy both to herself and to many, particularly during the arduous years of war. All who have known Prof. Mackinnon will feel deeply saddened by the passing of a charming and gracious lady.

BEN DAWES

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Appeal from the University of Szeged, Hungary

THE following communication, dated November 4, has been received from Prof. A. Szent-Gyorgyi, of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.: "I obtained from Hungary the wire quoted below, posted on November the 3rd, 6 p.m. I should be grateful if you could give room to it on your pages. "To A. Szent-Gyorgyi, Marine Research Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A. The University of Szeged makes the following declaration: the newly born democratic Hungary wants to live in peace and friendship with its neighbours and all peoples of the world. We call on all Universities to support and help us with their moral authority in our endeavour to restore peace and independence to our country, which are the basic conditions of all scientific work. We ask all those men of learning with whom we established contacts at home or abroad, to come to our help. Up to the present we strived with all the modest means at our disposal to serve the progress and better future of mankind. We want also in the future to do everything possible to work in concert with the researchers of the whole world. We would be overjoyed if this desire could be fulfilled. We ask you to make this declaration known in possibly wide circles.' Here follows a great number of signatures, representing practically the whole senate and faculty."

### Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1956

THE Nobel Prize in Chemistry has this year been divided between Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, president of the Royal Society and Dr. Lee's professor of chemistry in the University of Oxford, and Prof. N. Semenov, of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, for their work on the kinetics of chemical reactions.

#### Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, F.R.S.

SIR CYRIL HINSHELWOOD was elected president of the Royal Society in 1955, and reference was made to his many interests in *Nature* of December 10, 1955, p. 1101. This further honour which has come to him is a worthy recognition of the fundamental significance of his work on the study of chemical processes by kinetic methods.

### Academician N. Semenov

NIKOLAI NIKOLAIEVICH SEMENOV, member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences and director of the Institute of Chemical Physics in Moscow, to whom, jointly with Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, this year's Nobel Prize for Chemistry is awarded, has long been known to all chemists for his outstanding contributions to the theory of chain reactions and explosions. The first major impact of his ideas on the world came with the explanation in terms of branching reaction-chains of the sudden ignition on slight increases of pressure of mixtures such as phosphorus vapour and oxygen in which, below the limiting pressure, there is little sign of chemical activity. His book, "Chemical Kinetics and Chain Reactions", published in England in 1935, contains an exhaustive analysis of the applications of the chain-theory to reactions of the most varied types, but notably to those involved in combustion processes. Among the many fruitful ideas which Semenov has advanced is that of degenerate branching, in terms of which some of the rather mysterious phenomena associated with the induction periods of oxidation reactions can be understood. Less well known, because published only in Russian, is his work on the propagation of explosion waves. Semenov has been, and still is, the centre of a distinguished group of Russian workers in various fields of physical chemistry, but principally devoted to the study of the mechanism of chemical transformation. It is an interesting circumstance that the two chemists who share this year's award have been on very friendly terms for many years, and met in Moscow on the occasion of the Academy's celebration of its 220th anniversary in 1945.

### Royal Society: Medal Awards for 1956

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals: Dr. Dorothy M. C. Hodgkin, reader in X-ray crystallography, University of Oxford, for her distinguished work in the elucidation of the structures of penicillin, vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and other important compounds by the methods of X-ray crystallography; Dr. O. T. Jones, lately Woodwardian professor of geology in the University of Cambridge, for his