gelatin reaction—first studied by Humphry Davy in 1803—should be especially mentioned for its explicity of technique and sound theorization. These papers, published in British and American journals, made Page an outstanding figure in contemporary leather research.

His scholarly endeavour was early recognized, not only by his own colleagues. Thus, the University of New Zealand conferred the degree of D.Sc. upon him in 1934. Dr. Page took an active part in the scientific life of his own country, being a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute, also a past president of that body, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. During overseas visits to Europe and the United States he made many friends. The man and his achievements carried the imprint of sterling qualities.

K. H. GUSTAVSON

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society Medal Awards

THE following awards of medals have been made by the President and the Council of the Royal Society: *Copley Medal* to Sir Howard Florey, professor of pathology in the University of Oxford, for his distinguished contributions to experimental pathology and medicine; *Davy Medal* to Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, professor of chemistry at University College, London, for her distinguished studies in the structure and growth of crystals; *Buchanan Medal* to Sir Neil Hamilton Fairley, for his distinguished contributions to the control of malaria; *Hughes Medal* to Prof. J. Proudman, professor emeritus of oceanography in the University of Liverpool, for his distinguished work on dynamical oceanography.

Royal Society of Edinburgh: Officers for 1957–58

THE following have been appointed to the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for the session 1957–58: *President*, Prof. James Ritchie; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. J. Norman Davidson, Principal H. B. Nisbet, Prof. Meirion Thomas, Prof. A. C. Aitken, Dr. J. E. Richey and Prof. D. Whitteridge; *General Secretary*, Prof. Norman Feather; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Dr. T. R. Bolam, Dr. A. W. Greenwood; *Treasurer*, Dr. J. R. Peddie; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Dr. Douglas Guthrie; *Councillors*, Dr. D. A. Allan, Prof. G. H. Bell, Dr. D. N. McArthur, Dr. A. G. MacGregor, Prof. C. H. Waddington, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, Dr. R. Schlapp, Dr. J. B. Tait, Prof. G. M. Wyburn, Prof. R. A. Rankin, Prof. A. E. Ritchie and Prof. W. M. Smart.

Royal Society of South Africa: Elections

THE following have recently been elected to fellowship in the Royal Society of South Africa: Dr. R. A. Alexander, director of veterinary services, South Africa, Onderstepoort, Pretoria; Dr. J. J. Frankel, Department of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Natal, Durban; Prof. I. Gordon, professor of pathology and dean of the Medical Faculty, Medical School, Durban; Prof. F. G. Holliman, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Cape Town; and Dr. R. H. Marloth, director of the Citrus and Subtropical Horticultural Research Station, Nelspruit, Transvaal.

Organic Chemistry at Glasgow: Prof. R. A. Raphael

THE appointment of Ralph Alexander Raphael to the regius chair of chemistry at Glasgow brings him back to the University where he held a lectureship during 1949–54. He graduated from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in 1941, with first-class honours, and obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1943. After a period with Messrs. May and Baker, Ltd., he returned to the Imperial College in 1946 with an Imperial Chemical Industries Fellowship. His distinction as an organic chemist won early recognition when he was awarded the Meldola Medal for 1948 at the age of twenty-seven. His main interest in research has been the study of acetylenic compounds and, in particular, the use of such reagents as precursors in the synthesis of a wide range of naturally occurring organic substances. In 1954, Dr. Raphael became the first professor of organic chemistry at The Queen's University of Belfast. The combination of his skilful leadership and his enthusiastic personality led to a rapid expansion of the research school in organic chemistry during his three years at Queen's; his outstanding success there as a teacher and as a director of research augurs well for the future of organic chemistry in Glasgow.

Organic Chemistry at Belfast: Prof. H. B. Henbest

THE appointment of Dr. H. B. Henbest to the chair of organic chemistry at The Queen's University of Belfast, in succession to Prof. R. A. Raphael, certainly represents an example of a meteoric rise. Graduating with first-class honours at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in 1944, he worked under Prof. (then Dr.) E. R. H. Jones, a collaboration he was enabled to continue after his doctorate by the award of a Beit Research Fellowship. Henbest accompanied Jones to Manchester on the latter's appointment to the chair in 1948, and remained there as a lecturer in organic chemistry until 1956; this was punctuated by a year's leave of absence, during which he worked at Harvard and the University of California, Los Angeles. Only shortly before the appointment to Queen's he had moved to King's College, London, as reader in organic chemistry.

The outstanding impression of Henbest's research work is its lack of triviality and its concentration on important and live topics. His first conjoint project was the establishment of an improved route to provitamin D_3, and, continuing his steroid interests, he played a large part in devising a new route to cortisone from ergosterol. Another outstanding achievement in the vitamin field was the establishment of the structure of vitamin A_2 by an unambiguous synthesis. A logical extension of interest to plant hormones led to synthetic work in relation to the postulated structure of auxins *a* and *b*, and to the isolation and proof of structure of a new plant hormone, 3-indolylacetonitrile. Aspects of acetylene chemistry have also engaged his attention, leading, for example, to the synthesis of kawain. At present he is engaged on a series of highly original stereochemical investi-