

interested in the study of the chemical composition of proteins endowed with biological activity; for example, of lysozyme and of the pituitary hormones. Some of his more recent results in this field were presented at Bristol in April 1956, when he took part in the Colston Research Society Symposium on the neurohypophysis.

Fromageot's name is most intimately connected with our present knowledge of the metabolism of sulphur, both in micro-organisms and in higher animals. Much of this work was reviewed in his Harvey Lecture, given in New York in 1953. One of the main advances that we owe to him and his colleagues is the recognition of the central position held by cysteinesulphinic acid in the degradation of cysteine. They discovered and investigated a number of enzymic reactions in which this important intermediate metabolite takes part. The role of vitamin B<sub>6</sub> in these reactions and the action of hormones on the enzymes involved have been studied in his laboratory. Many of these results are embodied in the "Colloque sur la Biochimie du Soufre", the outcome of a gathering held in May 1956 at the Station Maritime, Roscoff, under the auspices of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, where Fromageot and his colleagues discussed outstanding problems with other workers in this field. Here his

unique mastery of the subject was evident, and this volume will now serve to remind us of some of his more recent achievements and of his aims. At the time of his death, Fromageot was busy planning another session on sulphur metabolism for the Fourth International Congress of Biochemistry, to be held at Vienna this year.

Fromageot did much to strengthen international co-operation in research. He travelled widely and lectured in many countries, helped by his great linguistic abilities. Biochemists everywhere owe him a debt, as one of the founders of *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, and as the president of the Organizing Committee of the Second International Congress of Biochemistry, held at Paris in 1952.

In the remarkable development of French biochemistry in the post-war years, Fromageot played his full part. Some of his earlier colleagues followed him from Lyons to Paris; later his name attracted an ever-increasing number of workers from France as well as from many other countries. He was able in recent years greatly to develop his laboratory from its modest beginnings and to provide it with modern equipment. It is sad to think that his untimely death did not allow him to direct for a longer period what had grown into one of the world's leading centres of biochemical research. H. BLASCHKO

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Entomology at McGill: Prof. E. M. DuPorte

PROF. E. M. DUPORTE, who is retiring from the chair of entomology at Macdonald College, McGill, was born on the island of Nevis in the British West Indies and received his first college education at Basseterre on St. Kitts. He went to Canada in 1910 as a student at Macdonald College and has been attached to that institution either as a student or as a member of the staff throughout his academic life. He took his Master's degree in 1914 and his Ph.D. in 1921. Morphology became his principal interest, and his world-wide reputation was earned in this field. Prof. DuPorte has played an important part in establishing and maintaining the reputation of Macdonald College as a graduate school. He taught a remarkably wide range of subjects: ecology, protozoology, histology, parasitology, insect taxonomy, morphology, physiology, comparative vertebrate anatomy and embryology, and was one of the two members of the committee responsible for the establishment of the present Institute of Parasitology at Macdonald College. In spite of his wide range of interests in his own subjects, he has still found time for other activities, and is a keen golfer as well as a puppet player who builds and handles his own puppets. His friends and students throughout Canada will wish him a happy and enjoyable retirement.

### Dr. D. K. McE. Kevan

THE appointment of Dr. D. K. McE. Kevan to succeed Prof. DuPorte at Macdonald College, McGill, will be welcomed by his many friends in Britain and Europe. Dr. Kevan graduated from the University of Edinburgh with first-class honours in zoology in 1941, and proceeded to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, where he obtained his associateship in 1943. He was then appointed to the Colonial Service, and stationed in Kenya, where he became

interested in the problems of the taxonomy of locusts and other bush hoppers. These have remained his abiding interest, and in a series of able papers he has undertaken considerable revision of the classification of certain Orthoptera, especially Chrotogonus, and has brought some degree of order to what had been a confused and tangled field.

He returned to England in 1948 as the senior member of the agricultural zoology section of the youngest Faculty of Agriculture in Britain, at the newly established University of Nottingham. In this, his first teaching post, he quickly established a reputation as an able teacher, and he played an active part in developing the curriculum for the new structure of the degree. He has been active both in the prosecution and in the encouragement of research, and a remarkable stream of papers has flowed from his department. His work in taxonomy has been assisted by a wide knowledge of foreign languages which is becoming unusual in a scientist, and papers in both German and French testify to his fluency. More recently he has become interested in soil zoology and has developed an effective undergraduate course in this field, while his own key for the identification of soil-inhabiting fauna, published with the Proceedings of the Second Nottingham Easter School in Agricultural Science, constitutes something of a classic. A critical and independent mind, he has been an admirable tutor, whose succinct reports on the vagaries as well as the virtues of both male and female students will be sadly missed by his colleagues at Sutton Bonington.

### Civil Engineering at Nottingham:

#### Dr. R. C. Coates

DR. R. C. COATES, who was appointed to the newly established chair of civil engineering in the University of Nottingham on January 1, began his education at