

NEWS and VIEWS

Physical Biochemistry at Canberra :

Prof. A. G. Ogston, F.R.S.

DR. A. G. OGSTON has been appointed to the chair of physical biochemistry in the Australian National University at Canberra. This is a new establishment, and his Department will be housed in the John Curtin Institute for Medical Research, where Prof. A. H. Ennor holds the chair of biochemistry. Dr. Ogston took a first-class degree in chemistry at Oxford in 1933. Later, in 1938, he took a degree in physiology and was appointed Oliver Gatty Fellow and Tutor in Biological Sciences at Balliol College. In addition to his college fellowship he holds the appointment of reader in biochemistry in the University of Oxford. His teaching and research have been characterized by an unusually clear understanding of both the physical and biological approaches and their relation to one another. His recent work has been concerned mainly with the properties of hyaluronic acid and its isolation from synovial fluid. Since 1955 he has been chairman of the editorial board of the *Biochemical Journal*. The formation of a department devoted to physical biochemistry in Canberra will be important, not only for the work it produces but also for the stimulus it provides; the Australian National University is to be congratulated in attracting a scientist of such distinction. Dr. Ogston will take up the appointment in 1960.

Chemistry at Edinburgh : Prof. J. P. Kendall, F.R.S.

JAMES PICKERING KENDALL, who is retiring from the chair of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh at the end of the present academic year, succeeded Sir James Walker in that chair in 1928, the appointment following an extensive experience of university teaching, research and administration as professor of chemistry in Columbia University, New York (1913-26), and in New York University (1926-28). His graduation in Edinburgh as M.A., B.Sc. in 1910 was followed by his association with Arrhenius and other continental workers in the earlier work on solutions, leading to his active research interest in general solution chemistry, with particular reference to ionic migration. The course of this work was accompanied by the publication of an extensive series of articles and text-books, particularly the Smith-Kendall series of college chemistries, and including "At Home among the Atoms" (1929), "Breathe Freely" (1938), "Young Chemists and Great Discoveries" (1939), and "Humphry Davy" (1954). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1927.

During the past thirty years Prof. Kendall has taken a full share of Senatus and Faculty business—he is at present Dean of the Faculty of Science—and has served as a member of the University Court and of many of its committees. His tenure of the chair has been marked by many changes in the Department of Chemistry, particularly during the post-war period. These have included the institution of the Forbes chair of organic chemistry, to which Prof. E. L. Hirst was appointed in 1947, the enlargement and rebuilding of the Department and extensive developments in teaching and research. Prof. Kendall has for many years taken a great interest in the work of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, being

in turn member of Council, secretary for meetings and general secretary, a post he occupied during 1939-49. During 1949-54 he served with distinction as president of the Society.

Dr. T. L. Cottrell

DR. TOM LEADBETTER COTTRELL, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. James Kendall, received his early education at George Watson's Boys' College, Edinburgh. After entering the University of Edinburgh, he specialized in chemistry and graduated B.Sc. in 1943 with first-class honours. He then took a post in the Research Department of the Explosives Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., where he developed his interest in physical chemistry. In 1946 he was seconded for special work in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory of the University of Oxford. Shortly after his return to Ardeer he was appointed head of the Physical Chemistry Research Section of the Nobel Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. His contributions to the solution of fundamental problems in physical chemistry, with particular reference to chemical kinetics, thermochemistry and intermolecular forces, were of such outstanding merit that he was awarded in 1952 the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Two years later he published a book on "The Strengths of Chemical Bonds", the second edition of which was called for after an interval of only four years. In 1958 he was awarded the D.Sc. degree of the University of Edinburgh for his achievements in physical chemistry. After a wide experience of both fundamental and applied research work at Ardeer, Dr. Cottrell was transferred in 1958 to the directorate staff of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., at its London headquarters, where he acted as personal assistant to Sir Ewart Smith, deputy chairman of the Company. In returning to Edinburgh at the age of thirty-five, Dr. Cottrell will become a professor in the department in which his father previously held the post of lecturer in technical chemistry.

Royal Astronomical Society Awards

THE Royal Astronomical Society has recently made the following awards: the Gold Medal of the Society to Dr. R. A. Lyttleton, lecturer in mathematics in the University of Cambridge, for his outstanding contributions to many branches of theoretical astronomy, in particular to the problems of the stability of rotating fluid masses, of the constitution of the stars and stellar evolution, and of the origin and peculiarities of the solar system; and the Eddington Medal to Dr. J. S. Hey, of the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern, for his outstanding discoveries concerning radio emission from the active Sun, radio reflexions from meteors, and discrete sources of cosmic radio emission.

Gold Medals of the Institut Français des Combustibles et de l'Énergie

GOLD medals, designed to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of utilization of fuel and power, were recently presented in Paris to six fuel technologists of international reputation. The medals were a new foundation of the Institut Français des