

they went their own way in pursuit of their own problems, and gave to the students a basic sense of security spiced with intellectual challenges. The qualities which served the University so well were unstintingly given to the councils of professional bodies, particularly to the Institute of Metals and the Institution of Metallurgists, and he served as president of both these bodies.

#### Prof. C. R. Tottle

CHARLES RONALD TOTTLE, who is to succeed Prof. F. C. Thompson, graduated in 1941 from the honours school of metallurgy at the University of Sheffield with first-class honours. Joining the English Electric Co., Ltd., he was for some years in charge of the metallurgical laboratories of that firm at Rugby. For five years from 1945 he had academic and teaching experience as lecturer in metallurgy at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. From 1950 onwards his experience has been in various branches of the atomic energy field, first as scientist in charge of metallurgical developments at Springfield, where, after promotion to senior principal scientific officer, he was appointed assistant director of the Research and Development Branch. In 1951 he was transferred to the new Culcheth Laboratories, of which, in 1955, he was appointed deputy head. In that year he went to Dounreay as head of research and development, and last year became the deputy director and head of the Reactor Division.

Until 1952, Mr. Tottle's publications were mainly concerned with cast iron and residual stress. Two publications dealt with the plastic flow and deformation of cast iron and a third with the general problem of nucleation of cast metals at the mould face. His more recent contributions have naturally been in the atomic energy field and deal with the effect of alloying elements on the creep of metals and the physical and mechanical properties of niobium and its alloys. Much of his work during this period is still 'classified'.

#### Botany at Aberdeen :

##### Prof. James Robert Matthews, C.B.E.

PROF. J. R. MATTHEWS, regius professor of botany in the University of Aberdeen, retires at the end of this session. Students and colleagues alike have much cause to thank Prof. Matthews for the unflinching cheerful encouragement and wise counsel so freely given over a long and distinguished career. Educated at Perth Academy and the University of Edinburgh, Matthews early displayed a deep interest in taxonomy and ecology which has remained throughout his career and has placed him in the forefront of botanists concerned with the problems of the origin and distribution of plants in Britain. Before his appointment as regius professor at Aberdeen, Matthews served as lecturer at Birkbeck College (1913-16) and at the University of Edinburgh (1920-29) and as professor of botany at the University of Reading (1929-34). During the First World War he contributed to our knowledge of the protozoology of dysentery, serving as a temporary protozoologist at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (Western Command). Matthews has given freely of his time to national and local committees as a member of the Nature Conservancy and for a time as chairman of the Scottish Committee, as chairman of the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research (since 1947) and of the Scottish Horticultural Institute (since 1952). He was elected president of Section K for the Brighton meeting of the British Association in 1948.

#### Prof. Paul Egerton Weatherley

DR. P. E. WEATHERLEY, who is to succeed Prof. Matthews at Aberdeen, was born in Leicester and received his early education at Wyggeston School; he gained an open scholarship in natural science to Keble College, Oxford, and graduated in the honours school of botany in 1939. Elected to a Keble research scholarship to study fungal metabolism he acted as a part-time demonstrator. Awarded a Colonial Office Scholarship to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (1940), he obtained the A.I.C.T.A. (1942) and was posted to Uganda in the Department of Agriculture. He was in charge of an experimental farm at one of the government research stations and acted as advisory botanist. There he turned his attention to the problems of water relationships of plants and has pursued this as a major research project on his return to Manchester (1947-49) and at Nottingham since 1949. This has culminated in the design and installation of a highly efficient climatological wind tunnel capable of providing a wide range of precisely controlled environments for growing plants (see *Nature*, 183, 94; 1959). The work has been supported by the Nuffield Foundation and the University of Nottingham. The technique used by Kennedy and Mittler to study the feeding habits of aphids has been applied by Weatherley to study the nature and the movement of solutes in plants. He brings to his new appointment a well knit and vigorously pursued field of experimental botany. Through service on the Board of the Faculty of Science and on University committees, he has acquired at first hand a knowledge of the problems of administration facing universities in this expanding phase of higher education. Apart from botany, Weatherley has a wide range of interests, including painting, hill walking and Scottish country dancing. To his duties as regius professor he brings a wide knowledge of experimental botany, a keen and critical interest in the expanding fields of botany and an appreciation of the difficulties and requirements of students in the modern world of science.

#### Euratom : British Nuclear Energy Attaché

MR. D. H. HILL, of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, has been appointed resident nuclear energy attaché to Mr. A. H. Tandy, the U.K. Government's representative to the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in Brussels. The Government appointed a permanent representative to Euratom last year. The agreement between the Government and Euratom, which was signed in London on February 4, 1959, provides for close collaboration between the parties for the promotion and development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy within the Euratom community and Great Britain. The nuclear attaché will act as adviser to the British representative and will keep in touch with nuclear developments in all the six member countries of Euratom. Mr. Hill has been a member of the staff of the Authority's Industrial Group since 1956.

#### Royal Society Artificial Earth Satellites Programme

IN accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement on May 12, the Royal Society through its British National Committee on Space Research is engaged in preparing on behalf of the Lord President of the Council a programme of scientific experiments to be carried out in a series of artificial Earth satel-