

regard. He married in 1923 Elisabeth Rose McCormick, who survives him.

WALTER STILES

Prof. N. J. Scorgie

PROF. N. J. SCORGIE, Courtauld professor of animal husbandry in the Royal Veterinary College, London, died suddenly in his fiftieth year on February 10, 1958, in Iran, where at the instigation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations he was conducting a mission related to re-organization and development of animal husbandry services. Jack Scorgie, as he was commonly known, was a 1929 arts and 1931 science graduate of Aberdeen, after which he took his veterinary diploma at the Royal

Veterinary College and then joined the staff of that Institute. Following preliminary work in the Pathology Department and in preventive medicine, he transferred to the Department of Animal Husbandry, where he worked under Prof. W. C. Miller, whom he succeeded in 1946.

Scorgie had made the most of his wide training and was beginning to reap the benefit of his labours in organizing his Department, partly in new quarters, at the time of his death. He will be remembered best for his work on trichomoniasis in cattle, housing problems and poultry husbandry, being with the late Dr. Black, of Reading, the first to report on the successful applications of artificial insemination in fowls (*Gallus domesticus*).

NEWS and VIEWS

Plant Physiology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology : Prof. Helen K. Porter, F.R.S.

DR. HELEN K. PORTER, who has recently been appointed to the chair of plant physiology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, is the first woman to hold a chair in the College. After graduating from Bedford College, London, in 1921, she spent a year in the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Imperial College, and was then appointed research assistant in the Department of Botany. Ten years later she joined the staff of the Research Institute of Plant Physiology attached to the Imperial College, and concentrated primarily on research in the field of carbohydrate metabolism. Shortly after the Second World War she spent a year in Washington University, St. Louis, studying enzymological methods. The subsequent development of her work, in collaboration with a group of colleagues and postgraduate research students with the support of the Nuffield Foundation, led to the opening in 1953 of an enzymology laboratory in the Institute of Plant Physiology, to accommodate a research group under Dr. Porter's direction. In 1956 she was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society. In 1957 Dr. Porter was appointed to a new readership in enzymology at the Imperial College.

Burden Neurological Institute : Prof. F. L. Golla

PROF. F. L. GOLLA, director of the Burden Neurological Institute, Bristol, since 1939, is to retire. Prof. Golla, who followed Sir Frederick Mott as director of the Central Pathological Laboratory at the Maudsley Hospital, London, has for many years been a leading figure in neuropsychiatric research. Primarily a physiologist by training, his interests have extended into endocrinology, biochemistry, pharmacology and psychology, while his medicine has been constantly refreshed by gleanings in the German, French and Italian literature. His erudition is immense. In 1939 Prof. Golla moved to Bristol to start the Burden Neurological Institute, which, under his direction, has become widely known throughout the world.

Of Prof. Golla's research achievements, one of the most remarkable was his early application of the electroencephalograph to the study of neurological and psychiatric disorders, and, ably assisted by Dr. Grey Walter, he established the diagnostic value of the technique in cases of cerebral tumour and

other lesions of the brain. He was also a pioneer in attempting the surgical treatment of epilepsy by the removal of epileptogenic foci, and played an important part in the development of electro-convulsive therapy. Many generations of students at the Maudsley Hospital remember with gratitude the inspiration of his lectures on the physiology of the nervous system. He has a style of his own and combines a keen critical capacity with a breadth of vision that is unique. In 1950 there appeared a volume entitled "Perspectives in Neuropsychiatry", which was published by old pupils and colleagues as a present for Prof. Golla's seventieth birthday. Always full of new ideas, he has found his pleasure and inspiration in his work and cares little for publicity or personal rewards.

Dr. W. Ross Ashby

DR. W. ROSS ASHBY, who now succeeds Prof. Golla, was previously director of the Research Laboratory at Barnwood House, Gloucester. He was educated at Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital and was at one time engaged as a pathologist at the Watford Peace Memorial Hospital and as a house physician at Bethlem. He is probably best known for his work on the 'homeostat', an electronic device designed to parallel the homeostatic mechanisms of the brain. His interest in the behaviour of neuronal nets led to the writing of the book, "Design for a Brain", which is very widely known.

Bell Telephone Laboratories Appointments :

Dr. James B. Fisk

DR. JAMES B. FISK, executive vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, has been elected president as from January 1. Dr. Fisk succeeds Dr. Mervin J. Kelly, who has been elected chairman of the board of directors. Dr. Kelly has served as president of the Laboratories since 1951. Mr. Estill I. Green, vice-president in charge of systems engineering, is to be executive vice-president as from January 1.

Dr. Fisk, who has been associated with the Bell Laboratories for nearly twenty years, has combined a distinguished career in industrial research with outstanding service to the Government in the field of science. He was director of the Division of Research of the Atomic Energy Commission in