

Laboratories Committee of the International Council of Museums, which meets in Copenhagen this coming summer. In 1934 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and in 1956 he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from his old University, St. Andrews. He brings high distinction, both scientific and administrative, to his new office.

#### Dr. A. E. A. Werner

DR. A. E. A. WERNER, who succeeds Dr. H. J. Plenderleith as keeper of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum, Bloomsbury, was born in Dublin in 1911. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and at the University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau, where he was awarded the degree of D.Phil. In 1937 he was appointed lecturer in organic chemistry in the University of Dublin, and in 1948 went to London as the first holder of the post of research chemist (senior scientific officer) in the Scientific Department of the National Gallery. In 1954 he transferred to the British Museum, as principal scientific officer. Dr. Werner has made a special study of the application of new synthetic materials to the conservation of works of art and is undertaking a detailed report upon adhesives to the Museums Laboratory Committee of the International Council of Museums, of which he is a member. For some years he has given valuable help to the Wall-Paintings Committee—a joint body set up by the Central Council for the Care of Churches, and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings—to deal with the care of murals in Great Britain. In collaboration with J. S. Mills, he has made use of chromatographic techniques in the study of the natural resins. With his gift for languages and wide cultural interests, in addition to his scientific accomplishments, Dr. Werner is assured of the best wishes of a wide circle of friends and colleagues, both in Britain and abroad, as he enters upon his new responsibilities.

#### The Wykeham Chair of Logic at Oxford :

Prof. H. H. Price

IN October, Prof. H. H. Price will be succeeded in the Wykeham chair of logic at Oxford by Prof. A. J. Ayer, at present Grote professor of the philosophy of mind and logic, University College, London. Prof. Price, who was appointed to the chair in 1935 from a fellowship in philosophy at Trinity College, Oxford, began his philosophical career as an admirer of Prichard, Cook Wilson's most original and penetrating adherent. But in his first book, *Perception* (1932), he expounded an essentially phenomenalist theory of perception, identifying material objects with families of sense-data, which was remote from Prichard's views. It was, in fact, a uniquely thorough and coherent articulation of the ideas about perception that had been put forward, in a comparatively tentative and unfinished way, by Russell and Moore in the preceding decades. It remains a standard work on the subject. In 1940 he published "Hume's Theory of the External World", not so much a commentary as a set of ingenious variations on the Humean theme that the conception of a material object is a construction out of sensory elements. Since 1945 Prof. Price's main publications have been in the domain of philosophical logic. "Thinking and Representation", his British Academy Lecture of 1946, foreshadowed the full-scale study, "Thinking

and Experience" (1953), in which, among a great deal of careful and valuable analysis, the existence of imagery was resolutely defended against doubting linguistic philosophers, though their main point, that imagery could not be identified with the meaning of the words whose use it was associated with, was conceded. For many years Prof. Price has been actively interested in psychical research. He has considered the philosophical implications of its purported findings in a number of articles and has served as president of the Society for Psychical Research.

#### Prof. A. J. Ayer

PROF. AYER'S first book, "Language, Truth and Logic" (1936), which became well known outside the philosophical world for the vigour of its onslaught on metaphysics, traditional ethics and theology, was a presentation to the English-speaking public of the ideas of the Vienna Circle of logical positivists. It was also a more far-reaching piece of anglicization, since it applied techniques and principles worked out for the logical analysis of science to the analysis of knowledge in general. The thoroughgoing phenomenalism briefly sketched in it was more fully developed in "Foundations of Empirical Knowledge" (1940), which, its author states, owes more to Price's "Perception" than to any other work. Just as Prof. Ayer was prepared to go further than Prof. Price here by entirely rejecting material substance as something over and above actual and possible sensation, so, in "Thinking and Meaning", his inaugural lecture, delivered at University College, London, in 1947, he discarded the last relics of realism about universals which still figure in Prof. Price's examination of the same issue. In "Philosophical Essays" (1954) he collected a dozen substantial articles on philosophical logic, theory of knowledge and ethics. "The Problem of Knowledge" (1956), though designed as an introduction to philosophy, presents original contributions to the problems of perception, memory, the self and other minds.

Both Price and Ayer are masters of the lucid exposition of abstract subjects. Price's writing is notable for its charm and quiet humour, Ayer's for its brilliant concision and elegance. In Ayer's succession to Price the continuing strength and vitality of the British empirical tradition in philosophy is recognized.

#### Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize :

Prof. G. W. Kenner

PROF. G. W. KENNER, Heath Harrison professor of organic chemistry in the University of Liverpool, has been awarded the Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize for 1957 for his contributions to synthetic organic chemistry, particularly in the field of peptide and nucleotide chemistry. This award, consisting of a silver medal and a monetary prize of 200 guineas, is made annually to a British chemist of less than thirty-six years of age, who, in the judgment of the Council of the Chemical Society, has published during the year the most meritorious contribution to experimental chemistry. Applications or recommendations in respect of the award for the year 1958 must be received not later than December 31, 1959, and applications for the award for 1959 are due before the end of 1960. Copies of the rules governing the award may be obtained from the General Secretary, Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.