

NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at Bedford College, London:

Prof. E. E. Turner, F.R.S.

THE retirement is announced of Prof. E. E. Turner, head of the Department of Chemistry at Bedford College, University of London. Prof. Turner received his early education in the Coopers' Company School, in Queen Mary College, and in Sidney Sussex College. He was assistant (chemical warfare research) to Sir William Pope, and he also served in the Research Department, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. His first teaching appointments were in the University of Sydney and in Queen Mary College. Later, he was reader (1928-44) and professor (since 1944) at Bedford College, University of London. He is a Fellow of Queen Mary College, Freeman of the City of London, and Liveryman of the Coopers Company. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1939. Prof. Turner has made most distinguished contributions to research in organic chemistry, including especially stereochemical problems, such as molecular dissymmetry dependent on restricted rotation about a single bond in diphenyl and other compounds, asymmetric synthesis and transformation. He is joint author (with Margaret M. Harris) of a well-known text-book of organic chemistry. Prof. Turner's services to chemistry in many fields are far too numerous to mention; to give but one example, his colleagues in the University of London recall with pleasure and gratitude his many years of service on the Board of Studies in Chemistry, first as secretary and later as chairman.

Prof. P. B. D. de la Mare

DR. P. B. D. DE LA MARE, who is to succeed Prof. Turner, was educated at the Hamilton High School and Victoria University College, New Zealand. His interest and flair for research in physical-organic chemistry was first shown in important papers, in collaboration with Prof. P. W. Robertson, on the addition of halogens to olefins. Following his degree work at Wellington, he was directed for national service to the New Zealand Government Department of Agriculture, where he worked on problems of nutrition and the chemistry of lipids with Dr. F. B. Shorland. During 1946-48 he held a University of New Zealand fellowship at University College, London, and he was awarded the Ramsay Memorial Medal in 1948. Since that time he has been a member of staff of University College, where he is at present a reader in chemistry. He has made most notable contributions to the study of addition, substitution and re-arrangement processes in organic chemistry. He is a co-editor, with Dr. W. Klyne, of "Progress in Stereochemistry", vol. 2, and a co-author, with Dr. J. H. Ridd, of "Aromatic Substitution—Nitration and Halogenation". He is a member of the Publications Committee of the Chemical Society and of the Joint Library Committee. It is evident that the established traditions at Bedford College will continue to grow under Dr. de la Mare's direction.

Pierre Joseph van Beneden (1809-94)

THE distinguished Belgian zoologist, parasitologist and palaeontologist, Pierre Joseph van Beneden, was born at Malines 150 years ago on December 19, 1809.

After graduating M.D. at Louvain, he abandoned medical practice for natural history, but all his life maintained a keen interest in those branches of medicine which are aided by the study of the lower organisms. In 1831 he was appointed conservator of the Natural History Museum in Louvain, and in 1835 professor of zoology at the University of Ghent. In the following year he was elected to the corresponding chair at Louvain, which he occupied until his death. In 1843 he established at his own expense one of the earliest laboratories of marine zoology and aquaria. Author of some 200 brochures, his best-known works are "Zoologie Médicale" (1859) and "Ostéographie des Cétacées Vivants et Fossiles" (1868-80), both written in co-operation with Paul Gervais, and "Les Commensaux et les Parasites dans le Règne Animal" (1875; English translation, "Animal Parasites and Messmates", 4th ed., 1889). He made original contributions to scientific knowledge of the development of polypi and of worms, both intestinal and vesical, was the first to distinguish between 'commensalisme' and 'mutualisme', and enriched the catalogue of cetaceous fossils by several new species. Recipient of many honours, he was a foreign member of the Royal Society and of the Linnæan, Geological and Zoological Societies of London, and in 1881 served as president of the Royal Belgian Academy. In 1886 he was created Grand Officer of the Order of Leopold. A modest and kindly man, he died at Louvain on January 8, 1894. His fame has been eclipsed by that of his son, Édouard van Beneden (1846-1910), the embryologist.

Astronomy for the Layman

IN a series of articles in the *Illustrated London News* early in 1959, Dr. R. A. Lyttleton described the astronomical universe starting at the Earth and working outwards. These articles proved of great interest, and consequently the *Illustrated London News* is publishing a second series of astronomical articles; this time they are written by Prof. H. Bondi, of King's College, London. The first appeared on October 31, and the remaining eleven articles are following at weekly intervals. As before, the articles are accompanied by photographs and by illustrations drawn by Mr. G. H. Davis, the special artist of the *Illustrated London News*. Prof. Bondi started with the most distant objects observed, and will work inwards in later articles. After some preliminary remarks on the philosophical basis of science he discusses the expansion of the universe. His second article discusses the famous paradox of Olbers (Why is it dark at night?), and this is followed in the third and fourth articles by an account of the evolutionary and steady-state theories of cosmology and of possible observational tests of these theories. In subsequent articles Prof. Bondi will discuss the stars, interstellar and interplanetary space and gravitational problems in the solar system, ending with the motion and magnetism of the Earth.

Management in India

IN her five-year plan, India is trying democratically to meet the desperate needs of her peoples for better living conditions. Industrialization is proceeding rapidly, and it is encouraging to read how leaders of