in mathematics at the University of Leeds. Soon afterwards, he took up work in the Admiralty Degaussing Department at Portsmouth and Helensburgh, and thus his first contacts with electrical engineering were made. In 1942, when the magnetic mine had been overcome and there was an acute demand for radio mechanics, Dr. Russell accepted lectureships on radio training courses, first at the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, and then at Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen. He went from Aberdeen to the Research Department of the British Thomson-Houston Co. at Rugby. In 1946, he was appointed as lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering in the University of Bristol, and in 1955 he was promoted to a readership.

Towards the end of the War he published certain papers of a semi-geometrical nature, mainly arising out of problems in radio engineering. As time has proceeded, he has turned his essentially geometrical mind to a number of problems, first in electrical measurements and then in relation to electrical machines. Many papers have been published in the *Proceedings of the Institution of Electrical Engineers* arising out of this work, which led to Russell receiving the degree of D.Sc. from the University of Leeds a few months ago. Dr. Russell's most individual contribution to electrical engineering has been to observe the possibilities which arise from feeding a three-phase winding simultaneously at both ends with voltages of different frequencies. This principle has already had several applications, and it is of interest to note that Russell's predecessor in Newcastle, Prof. J. C. Prescott, adopted the idea in relation to synchronous governing. A recent Ph.D. thesis on synchronous governing presented at King's College incorporated just such a double-fed device.

Agricultural Botany at Leeds: Prof. J. H. Western

Dr. J. H. Western has been appointed to the newly instituted chair of agricultural botany within the Department of Agriculture in the University of Leeds. He was educated at Avoncroft Agricultural College, Evesham, and the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where he graduated in botany with agricultural botany. In 1937 he was awarded the degree of Ph.D., the subject of his thesis being "Some Aspects of Biological Specialization in the Oat Smut Fungi". In that year, he also took up an appointment at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, where he undertook research on diseases affecting herbage plants. In 1939 he was appointed lecturer in agricultural botany and adviser in mycology in the University of Manchester, leaving in 1946 to take up appointment as provincial plant pathologist to the Northern Province, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Newcastle upon Tyne. In 1951 he was appointed to his present post of senior lecturer in agricultural botany in the Department of Agriculture in the University of Leeds. His investigations have included the problem of the 'choke' disease of cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) caused by the fungus *Epichloe typhina*, and he has been responsible for numerous publications.

Physiology at King's College, London: Prof. R. J. S. McDowall

The retirement is announced of Prof. R. J. S. McDowall from the Halliburton chair of physiology at King's College, London. This he has held for thirty-six years. He has perhaps become best known for his books. The most outstanding is "Control of the Circulation of the Blood", a monumental work with more than 9,000 references; but his "Handbook of Physiology", of which he has produced eleven editions, has been the bible of a generation of medical students. His "Sane Psychology" has been reprinted four times. Prof. McDowall's interests have been chiefly in the circulatory system in which he has been an untiring worker and is a recognized authority. He gave the Oliver Sharpey Lecture of the Royal College of Physicians in 1939 on this subject. He has also been largely responsible for the formation of the Asthma Research Council and in recognition of this he was made president of the fourth European Congress of Allergy held in London in September. His enthusiasm and powers of inspiration are reflected by the fact that thirteen of his pupils have become professors and, of these, six have been in the University of London.

Prof. J. L. D'Silva

Prof. J. L. D'Silva has been appointed to succeed Prof. R. J. S. McDowall. Prof. D'Silva first graduated in 1929 from King's College in chemistry. His early interests were in organic chemistry and he was elected Sir Halley Stewart Fellow in 1933. His attentions then turned to physiology, and appointments leading to the readership in physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College followed. Here he pursued his particular interests in the effects of adrenaline and adrenaline-like substances on serum electrolytes. In 1948 he was appointed to the chair of physiology at the London Hospital Medical College where his research contributions to the understanding of respiratory mechanics again reflected his early interest in the physical sciences.

University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur: Prof. R. S. Huang

In the article under the title "University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur" in *Nature* of August 1, p. 306, it was stated that Prof. R. A. Robinson had been appointed to the chair of chemistry. It has now been announced that Prof. Robinson has declined the appointment, which has been accepted by Prof. R. L. Huang, reader in chemistry in the University.

Prof. Rayson Lisung Huang was educated in Hong Kong, first at Munsang College and then at the University of Hong Kong. After a year as demonstrator in chemistry at Kwangsi University, China, Dr. Huang went to the University of Oxford with two scholarships, from the Rhodes Trust and the British Council, to study under Sir Robert Robertson. He gained his doctorate as a result of this period of research on synthetic hormones. Dr. Huang then visited the University of Chicago with a postdoctoral fellowship and studied for two years under the late Prof. M. S. Karasch, and then joined Prof. Konrad Bloch as a research associate for a further year. During these periods Dr. Huang worked on free radicals and on the biosynthesis of cholesterol, respectively. He joined the University of Malaya early in 1951 and has been awarded the degree of D.Sc. for his researches mainly in the field of free radicals. A citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, Dr. Huang has a good knowledge of classical and modern Chinese, and speaks several Chinese dialects. His scholarship in a wide field will be a most valuable contribution to the professoriate of the new Division of the University of Malaya.