Marcel Schein was keenly interested in international scientific collaboration. He travelled extensively in foreign countries, providing great stimulation through his lectures and his informal contacts with scientific workers. He participated most actively in practically all major international conferences dealing with subjects within his field of interest. His last experiment, which I mentioned before, was a truly international venture, with a large number of laboratories, both in the United States and abroad, participating in the analysis of the experimental results.

Marcel Schein was, in many ways, a remarkable man. For him science was a passionate search for the new and the unknown, involving all his scientific skills, as well as his deepest emotions. His sharp mind, his keen intuition, his irresistible enthusiasm and his intense personality will be long remembered by his many friends, pupils, and professional associates in all parts of the world. BRUNO ROSSI

[1] Schein, M., Jesse, W. P., and Wollan, E. O., *Phys. Rev.*, **59**, 615 (1941).

Prof. G. P. Mazumdar

PROF. G. P. MAZUMDAR died suddenly on November 21. He was born on February 18, 1894, at Gopalnagar in the District of Pabna, North Bengal (now in East Pakistan), the third son of Kali Charan Mazumdar, a wealthy landlord and Zeminder of the district. After obtaining his B.Sc. at the University of Calcutta in 1913, he joined the teaching staff of the Botany Department, Presidency College, Calcutta. He later obtained his B.A. (1916) and M.Sc. in botany (1915), standing first in order of merit, and in 1917 the B.L. degree from the same University. He was eventually appointed a professor of botany in the Bengal Educational Service in the Presidency College, Calcutta, and from 1928 became one of the postgraduate lecturers in botany at the University of Calcutta. In 1938 he went on study leave to England to work on plant anatomy in the University of Leeds under the late Prof. J. H. Priestley and obtained the degree of Ph.D. in 1940. He retired from the Government service in 1949; but his services were soon requisitioned by the Government of West Bengal for the organization of honours teaching in botany in the Government College, Darjeeling. In December 1951 he was appointed professor of botany and head of the Biology Department, University of Dacca, in East Pakistan, and retired in October 1954. While in Pakistan, he acted as the chairman of the Commission of Courses of the Karachi University and presided over the Section of Biology at the annual session of the Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science in January 1955. In 1945 he presided over the Section of Botany at the thirty-second Indian Science Congress. He also presided over the Section of Technical Sciences at the All-India Oriental Conference some few years back. He was elected a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, and National Institute of Sciences of India (1945). He was for a long time connected with the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, now at Jadavpur, Calcutta, both as a member and a treasurer. He was also member of other Indian learned societies.

Prof. Mazumdar published a large number of scientific papers in numerous journals throughout the world and several scientific Bengali primers, especially in botany. His writings for children on scientific subjects and botany in Bengali have evoked admiration. He also dealt with botany in ancient India in several books and papers. His "Vanaspati" earned for him the Griffith Memorial Prize of the University of Calcutta in 1925. His "Upavana Binoda" (dealing with horticulture in ancient India) was published in 1938. He published other works on the history of botany. The Asiatic Society awarded him the P. Bruhl Memorial Medal in 1955 for his outstanding researches in botany.

R. M. DATTA

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany at Cambridge : Prof. G. E. Briggs, F.R.S.

ON September 30, Prof. G. E. Briggs will retire from the professorship of botany in the University of Cambridge. Since he succeeded Prof. F. T. Brooks in 1948, he has maintained the notably wide range of teaching and research in the Botany School and has fostered expansion in several branches of the subject. The Department has flourished under his direction, and has benefited greatly from his example of easy friendliness. As a physiologist he has always believed in the value of a quantitative and critical approach both in teaching and research, and his lectures were planned not only to show this but also to indicate the weaknesses of many currently accepted generalizations. He is a brilliant teacher, and for those undergraduates and research students who could rise at least part-way towards his high standard, his lectures and supervision provided a never-to-be-forgotten education. His researches on enzyme kinetics, on growth and photosynthesis early brought him a world-wide reputation as a critical and original thinker. More recently he has entered a new field of research, the biophysics of the plant cell, and his success in this work has drawn to him a flourishing group of research students. In 1952 he became president of St. John's College, but he never allowed the duties of this post to curtail the time he gave to the Botany School.

Prof. H. Godwin, F.R.S.

DR. H. GODWIN, reader in Quaternary research at Cambridge, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Briggs, is known to a large number of former Cambridge students as an able and enthusiastic teacher of botany at all levels. Outside Cambridge, he may be best known for his large book on the Quaternary history of the British vegetation. His first research was, in fact, in pure plant physiology with Dr. F. F. Blackman, but from early days the inspiration of A. G. Tansley led him to work at Wicken Fen and eventually ecology took up his whole time. Study of fluctuating water-level in the peat and of the effects of this and of cutting reeds on fen vegetation soon directed his attention to the history of this vegetation in the immediate past, and to actual changes in this locality rather than general seral development. Thus he naturally dug in the peat for visible plant remains, and was soon using the methods of pollen