

weapons used in classical times. I was present when Rutherford, returning from the British Association meeting in South Africa, recited the exploits of Cetywayo; Goodlet, to Rutherford's great delight, continued the story with intimate details of the part played by the Zulu's lieutenants.

Goodlet is survived by a widow, two sons, and two daughters.

T. E. ALLIBONE

Dr. A. K. Das

INDIA lost a meteorologist of note and a leading astronomer of this century with the death on February 18, 1961, of Anil Kumar Das. He was best known for his work at Kodaikanal Astrophysical Observatory, of which he was the head for fourteen years. At the time of his death, however, he was acting temporarily as director of the Nazamiah Observatory, Hyderabad, and as professor of astronomy at Osmania University. But although best known for his astrophysical researches, Dr. Das published a number of papers on purely meteorological topics, mainly during the early part of his thirty-years service in the India Meteorological Department.

After completing his education to postgraduate level in India, Das continued his studies in Paris under Fabry and later also worked with Max Born and Augenheister. He returned to India in 1930 to commence his meteorological work, but in 1934 he went to England to study the temperature of the Sun by spectro-photographic means at the Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge. This virtually marks the beginning of his career in astronomy. His many papers on solar physics thereafter appeared at regular intervals almost up to the date of his death.

Das had the intuitive foresight, great energy and determination of the great research worker, but he was also an administrator of considerable ability. Indeed, his greatest achievements probably lie in the improvements he introduced at Kodaikanal, by the installation of new equipment and the initiation of new fields of research. Largely thanks to Das, this Observatory is now carrying out researches and making observations, using the finest equipment, in many branches of geophysics and solar physics. It is a pity that he could not live long enough to fulfil his last ambition to work with his new instruments during the last years of his life.

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany in University College, Dublin:

Prof. J. Doyle

PROF. JOSEPH DOYLE has retired from the chair of botany in University College, Dublin, after nearly fifty years service. He entered the College on a mathematical scholarship; later he became interested in biology through the pathway of medicine. Following a period of postgraduate research, part of which was spent in Germany, he was appointed assistant in biology in 1913; at this time, he and two others comprised the staff of the Biology Department. In 1924 he was appointed professor of botany, and undertook the development of the first Department of Botany in the College. His main research interest is represented by a long series of papers on conifer embryology, on which subject he is internationally recognized as an authority. He was awarded the Boyle Medal of the Royal Dublin Society in recognition of this work. The degree of D.Sc. was conferred on him in 1930. At the Dublin meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1957, he was president of Section K (Botany). In addition to developing the Department of Botany, Prof. Doyle rendered distinguished administrative service to his College. As dean of the Faculty of Science he showed considerable organizing power; for many years he was a member of the Governing Body of the College and of its Finance Committee. He has helped greatly in furthering the scientific and cultural life of Dublin. He is a member of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society, secretary of the Royal Irish Academy, chairman of the Praeger Committee for Field Natural History, and a trustee of the National Library of Ireland. Recently he has been actively engaged in planning new Science Buildings for University College, Dublin. His many interests will ensure for him rewarding occupation in his retirement.

Prof. Phyllis M. Clinch

DR. PHYLLIS M. CLINCH has been appointed to succeed Prof. J. Doyle. Dr. Clinch, in fact, majored in chemistry in University College, Dublin, with first-class honours and first place at her primary degree, but, botany being her second subject, she took an immediate interest in plant biochemistry and her earlier research was done in the Department of Botany on problems of seasonal metabolic changes in conifers. In this and in all her subsequent work her early intensive training in basic chemistry proved a most valuable asset. After a period of study under Prof. V. H. Blackman in the Imperial College and Prof. Guilliermond in Paris, she was appointed senior research assistant in plant virus diseases in the Department of Plant Pathology, University College, Dublin. Here she played a major part in the team that produced so much important work on plant viruses, especially the analyses of viruses affecting the potato plant. The value of the work from this Irish School is too well known to need comment here; suffice it to say that Dr. Clinch's share in it has gained her a well-merited international reputation in the plant virus world. In 1950 she accepted an invitation to join the staff of the Botany Department, University College, as senior lecturer with the primary purpose of developing courses and research in plant biochemistry and physiology along modern lines. The very successful organization of this entailed, unfortunately, a temporary break in her work on viruses. The break, however, was only temporary, and in recent years she has initiated a programme of research into the biochemical and physiological effects of virus infection on the metabolism of the infected plants themselves. It is to be hoped that the administrative and other duties which will now naturally fall on her as head of a department will not unduly hamper progress in this promising line of research.