

NEWS and VIEWS

Physics at Chelsea College of Science and Technology : Dr. W. H. George

DR. W. H. GEORGE, who has been head of the Department of Physics in Chelsea College of Science and Technology since 1938, is retiring at the end of the present session. Dr. George was Royal Society Sorby Research Fellow in the University of Sheffield, then lecturer in the University of Southampton before his appointment at Chelsea; his research has been mainly in X-ray crystallography and acoustics. He has greatly stimulated the provision of post-graduate degree courses, particularly since the War.

Dr. K. W. Keohane

DR. K. W. KEOHANE has been appointed to succeed Dr. George. He served during the War in the Radar Branch of the Royal Air Force and graduated with first-class honours in physics in the University of Bristol in 1947. After work on reflecting microscopy with C. R. Burch, Dr. Keohane's interest turned to biophysics and he afterwards joined Prof. J. M. Yoffey, first as a research associate and then as lecturer. He was awarded a Ph.D. for the application of absorption spectrometry to single cells and is well known for his work in collaboration with W. K. Metcalf on the physical properties of erythrocytes and lymphocytes. He was appointed reader in physics at Chelsea in 1959 and has developed research in biophysics at the College, particularly in the field of electrical properties of cell membranes.

Geology at Liverpool : Prof. W. S. Pitcher

DR. W. S. PITCHER, reader in geology in King's College, London, has been appointed to the George Herdman chair of geology in the University of Liverpool, rendered vacant by the resignation of Prof. R. M. Shackleton, who has been appointed to the second chair in the Department of Geology in the University of Leeds (*Nature*, 193, 1233; 1962). Dr. Pitcher, who is forty-three years of age, was awarded the degree of B.Sc. at the University of London in 1947, and the degree of Ph.D. in 1951. He served with H.M. Forces during the Second World War and on demobilization he became a student at the Chelsea College of Science and Technology. In 1947 he was appointed demonstrator at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, afterwards being promoted assistant lecturer, and later lecturer, and in 1955 he was appointed reader in geology in King's College, London. In 1948 he served as assistant secretary to the International Geological Congress. Dr. Pitcher's special field of research has been the geology of the County of Donegal, where he has made a special study of the mode of emplacement of the Caledonian granites. In recognition of his researches he was awarded the Lyell Fund of the Geological Society of London in 1956. His other interests are the ring complexes of Northern Nigeria and certain aspects of the Tertiary geology of south-east England.

Personal Chair of Biochemistry at Leeds:

Prof. S. Dagley

DR. S. DAGLEY was awarded an open scholarship in natural science at Keble College, Oxford, in 1934

and graduated in 1937 with honours in chemistry. He obtained the degree of B.Sc. in 1938 for a thesis on "The Chemical Kinetics of Bacterial Growth" under the supervision of Sir Cyril Hinshelwood. During the Second World War he was employed as a chemist in the Ministry of Supply, and in 1944 he was appointed chemist in charge at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. From 1945 until 1947 he was a lecturer in chemistry at the Sir John Cass College, Aldgate, where he continued his research work on the kinetics of bacterial growth. In 1948 he was awarded the degree of M.Sc. at the University of London and in 1956 the degree of D.Sc. Dr. Dagley was appointed a lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry in the University of Leeds in 1947, and in 1952 the title of reader in physicochemical aspects of biochemistry was conferred on him. His research at Leeds has been concerned chiefly with the biochemistry of bacteria. His research team has studied new ways by which bacteria open the benzene nucleus, the reactions by which they synthesize their cell constituents from simple chemicals and also the effect of antibiotics on certain structures inside the bacterial cell. He has contributed to symposia organized by the Faraday Society, the Society for General Microbiology and the Chemical Society.

New Research Synchrotron for Northern England

LORD HAILSHAM, Lord President of the Council and Minister for Science, has announced the approval of the proposal of the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science to establish a second laboratory, which will contain a 4-GeV electron synchrotron. The new laboratory will be in the north of England and will be particularly associated with the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, but scientists from other universities and institutions, as well as scientists on the Institute's own staff, will also carry out research there. The estimated capital cost of the laboratory and the synchrotron is about £3½ million. The first director of the laboratory will be Prof. A. W. Morrison, who is being released from administrative responsibilities at the University of Liverpool for a period of five years so that he may take up this post (for details of Prof. Morrison's career see *Nature*, 185, 284; 1960). Like *Nimrod* at Harwell, the new synchrotron will be used for research into the nature of the fundamental particles of matter, but as it will produce high-energy electrons rather than high-energy protons, the experiments carried out will be quite different. The new accelerator will also be complementary to *Nimrod* as regards the universities to which it will be conveniently accessible. The Physics Departments at Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow are particularly interested in this field of physics. The 4-GeV electron synchrotron was selected after a careful study carried out by the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science in 1960 and the first half of 1961. The proposal to build it was announced in the Institute's annual report for 1960-61. A similar accelerator is in operation jointly by Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States, and two others are under construction, at Hamburg and in the U.S.S.R.