

universities, and his book, *Three Centuries of Chemistry*, published in 1925, shows a profound knowledge of the historical and philosophical aspects of his subject. While science was his profession, classics and the arts were hobbies in which he reached professional standing. He was a great lover of books and an expert in the early history of printing. His major contribution in this field—the fruit of research during the latter years of his vice-chancellorship—is an outstanding monograph on the *Mainz Psalters* and *Canon Missae*.

Masson was tireless in his efforts on behalf of the University of Sheffield, and his flair for the lucid presentation of complex matters of finance and statistics proved invaluable. No one knew better than he what education was or what a university should and could do. As vice-chancellor he steered the University through its war-time problems and through the equally difficult period of development which followed. He made plans to guide the expansion from 850 students to a well-balanced and effective University of some 2,500 students (a target now increased to 4,750); temporary structural alterations were made and building programmes initiated; Stephenson Hall and the new Chemistry and Engineering Departments were almost completed before his retirement in 1952.

Though invariably courteous and dignified, Masson was nevertheless a determined fighter, often outspoken in formal debate. In contrast, his natural shyness in personal relationships was a handicap frequently mistaken for aloofness. Rarely at his best in large gatherings, he was an excellent host of a small party, with a turn of wit which would have surprised his detractors. Those who knew him well found him a lively companion and a true friend.

Masson became M.B.E. in 1918, was knighted in 1950, and received the honorary degree of LL.D. of the Universities of Edinburgh and Sheffield. His retirement, spent in bibliographical work in Edin-

burgh and in advisory posts to the Carnegie Trust and the University of St. Andrews, was saddened by the long illness of his wife Flora Lovell, daughter of Prof. G. Lovell Gulland, whom he married in 1913 and who died in 1960. He leaves one son, who is sub-librarian in charge of the Brotherton Collection at the University of Leeds.

R. D. HAWORTH  
A. H. LAMBERTON

#### Prof. Kh. M. Abdullaev

THE death of Khabib Mukhamedovich Abdullaev, president of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and former vice-premier of the Uzbek Council of Ministers, has been reported from Tashkent. Prof. Abdullaev visited Britain in 1960 and lectured on the geology and mineral resources of the Central Asian republics at several British universities. Although only fifty years old, he was the author of many geological monographs on the ore deposits of Central Asia, among them his doctoral dissertation on the scheelite deposits in the mountains of Uzbekistan and a number of lengthy works on the genetic connexion between mineralization and igneous intrusions. His book on *Dykes and Mineralization* (1957) brought him a Lenin prize; an English translation has just been published by the American Geological Institute.

Apart from his activities as an economic geologist, Abdullaev took a prominent part in the post-war organization of scientific affairs in Central Asia, in recognition of which he was awarded many Russian decorations. He spoke only Uzbek and Russian; but as a representative (and corresponding member) of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences he latterly travelled widely on scientific missions to Western Europe, Mexico, China and India. He was a member of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Biochemistry at Adelaide

SIR MARK MITCHELL, who has held the appointment of deputy vice-chancellor in the University of Adelaide since 1948, has resigned his chair of biochemistry in order to devote the whole of his time to the office of deputy vice-chancellor. Prof. R. K. Morton, Waite professor of agricultural chemistry in the University of Adelaide, has been appointed professor of biochemistry. Prof. Morton is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He recently returned to Adelaide after spending several months in England as a visiting Fellow under the auspices of the Commonwealth Fellowship and Scholarship Plan. Morton is distinguished for his work on purified enzymes and cytochromes including the first example of a protein containing two coloured prosthetic groups both necessary for enzyme activity. His method of purifying enzymes was a valuable contribution. He has also done important work on nucleic acids and plant proteins. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Navy and from 1949 until 1952 worked at Cambridge in the laboratories of Dr. Malcolm Dixon.

### Demand for Graduates in Agriculture in Britain

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on November 27, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries

and Food, Mr. C. Soames, announced that, with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland, he had decided to set up a committee of inquiry to assess the present and future demand, at home and abroad, by agriculture (including horticulture), its associated industries and public services, for graduates from agriculture and other faculties or departments of universities in the United Kingdom. The chairman of this committee would be Dr. C. I. C. Bosanquet and its members would be: Sir Arthur Benson, Mr. A. S. Cray, Mr. J. L. Davies, Mr. R. A. Hamilton, Prof. D. S. Hendrie, Dr. W. G. Humphrey, Prof. H. G. Lamont and Mr. Maitland Mackie.

### The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience:

#### Annual Report

THE fifteenth annual report of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience covering the year 1962 has recently been issued (Pp. 88. Bad Godesberg: Dr. Klaus Wyneken, General Secretary, IAESTE, Frankengraben 50, 1962). The report records an increase of 185 over 1961 in students exchanged, 60 of whom were sent abroad by the new member country, Ireland, the remaining increase over 1961 being mainly from five countries. The main part of the exchange is still