

and aerodynamic-hydrodynamic analogies. He was also keenly interested in recoilless guns and rockets, upper atmosphere research, sun-spot periodicity and astronomy: as early as 1914 he proposed that researches in the direction of interplanetary flight should be included in the programme for the Kuchino Institute.

Riabouchinsky remained active to the end, his most recent paper, reviewing many important results of his researches, appearing in the *Journal of the Royal Aeronautical Society* in August 1962. In 1961, at the invitation of Dr. G. A. Tokaty, head of the Department of Aeronautics and Space Technology in the Northampton College, London, another scientist who found it preferable to come to the West, he visited Great Britain and was welcomed by many distinguished British scientists. Although he made his home for so long in Paris, he never took French nationality and he never lost his pride in the Russian academic and scientific traditions from which he drew inspiration and to which he added so much.

S. BUCHANAN

#### Prof. A. R. Khan

By the death on June 13 of Prof. Abdur Rahman Khan, the American Meteor Society lost one of its most eminent and oldest active members. In 1937 he began a correspondence with me and to send copies of his numerous and carefully made observations. His reports continued to arrive up to and including 1954, after which advancing years forced him to stop this exacting type of night work. In our files are found about 11,540 observations of meteors made by him. Most of them were plotted and full

details also recorded on the data sheets. His work had special value due to distance of his station from those of other meteor observers. Indeed, during the whole interval mentioned we had only one other active observer in the Indian Peninsula, and him for only about two years. Hence, Prof. Khan's work had exceptional value.

So far, his work has been used here in studies of meteor magnitudes, long-enduring trains, fireball-rates and colours, and especially in K3, the *Hourly Rate Catalogue* covering nearly every hour of every night in the year published by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. They are at present being used in an investigation of fireball radiants, and other uses for his data undoubtedly will be found.

Few people in a great country have the distinction of being the only important contributor to a unique branch of an ancient science such as astronomy, but to my knowledge Prof. Khan attained this in India. In addition to all his valuable work which appeared in the American Meteor Society publications, he contributed many articles on meteors and the history of Indian astronomy to English and local scientific journals. It is not my purpose to review his important work and contributions to education at Osmania University College and elsewhere, as this can more properly be done by those more familiar with this type of his activities. However, one more thing will be mentioned to show the esteem with which he was held in the United States: he was research associate in the Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico. I feel that I personally have sustained a great loss in the death of this able colleague and friend of such long standing. C. P. OLIVIER

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Royal Society Awards: Royal Medals

H.M. THE QUEEN has approved recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for 1962 as follows: to Prof. S. Chandrasekhar, Morton D. Hull distinguished service professor in the University of Chicago, for his distinguished researches in mathematical physics, particularly those related to the stability of convective motions in fluids with and without magnetic fields; to Sir John Eccles, professor of physiology in the Australian National University, Canberra, for his distinguished investigations of the function of the spinal cord, particularly of the mechanisms of excitation and inhibition.

### Experimental Physics at Nottingham:

Prof. E. R. Andrew

PROF. E. R. ANDREW, professor of physics in the University College of North Wales, Bangor, has been elected to the chair of experimental physics as from September 1, 1963. In 1964 he will become the Lancashire-Spencer professor and head of the Department of Physics, following the retirement that year of Prof. L. F. Bates. Prof. Andrew was educated at Wellingborough School and Christ's College, Cambridge, where he held an Open Scholarship. After gaining first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos, he joined the staff of the Radar Research and Development Establishment for three years, but left in 1945 to resume his studies at Cambridge. For his research work he was awarded

the degree of Ph.D. in 1948; he was immediately elected to a Commonwealth Fund fellowship, which he held at Harvard for the session 1948-49. On his return he was appointed as lecturer in the Department of Physics at the University of St. Andrews and in 1954 was elected to the chair of physics at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. In addition to a large number of papers in scientific journals he has published an important book on *Nuclear Magnet Resonance*, which is his special field of study.

### Zoology at Hong Kong: Prof. J. G. Phillips

DR. PHILLIPS has been appointed, at the age of twenty-nine, to the chair of zoology, University of Hong Kong, and takes up his duties in the New Year. He graduated at the University of Liverpool in 1954 and remained there to join the research group in comparative endocrinology established by Prof. I. Chester Jones. After gaining the degree of Ph.D. he was awarded a Harkness fellowship, which he held at Yale for nearly two years. Since that time he has held a lectureship in zoology in the University of Sheffield. In addition, Dr. Phillips has had the experience of short working visits to research centres in Paris, Basel, Vancouver and Florida. Dr. Phillips has already achieved an international reputation for his work on the nature of adrenocortical secretion in lower vertebrates. He has demonstrated the types of corticosteroids produced by representatives of all the vertebrate classes and has shown the presence of