

always prepared to add to them—whether by stimulating a colleague, representing the Society on a committee or at a function, or undertaking an arduous journey overseas. He made three visits to North America to extend the Society's membership there, with the happiest results. Many Fellows will remember him especially well as their delighted guide in informal tours of the Society's house.

Very little came amiss to Luekhurst, unless it was hearing disparagement of other people, or the sense of an opportunity incompletely realized. He created his own pattern of unobtrusive service, not easily copied.

J. S. SKIDMORE

Dr. H. Banister

HARRY BANISTER, who died on January 19, in his eighty-first year, was appointed University lecturer in experimental psychology at Cambridge in 1926 and played a very active part in the affairs of the Psychological Laboratory for more than twenty years. Trained in physics, Banister brought to experimental psychology a great deal of good sense and a notable capacity for hard work. In his modest and sensible way, he did much to disarm suspicion of psychology in the University and to promote its teaching as an experimental discipline.

Banister had strong interests in acoustics, and his best-known work was on the localization of sound. He took issue with C. S. Myers, who had claimed, in opposition to Lord Rayleigh, that binaural phase differences owe their effect mainly to binaural intensity differences. On the basis of some admirable experiments, Banister concluded that the principal cue for localization is the time-interval between the arrival of the sound-waves at the two ears. In spite of some modification, this remains the accepted view. Banister produced several other experimental papers on hearing, and the chapter on audition which he wrote for Murchison's *Handbook of General Experimental*

Psychology, published in 1934, for long remained a standard source.

Vision was another of Banister's interests, and he contributed a paper on retinal action time to a joint discussion held by the Physical and Optical Societies in 1932. He worked with Hartridge and Lythgoe on visual acuity and, together with J. M. Blackburn, reported an interesting correlation between inter-pupillary distance and skill in ball games. Banister also wrote a short text on statistical method which was widely used by undergraduate students of psychology between the two World Wars.

In his later years, Banister turned his attention increasingly towards psychological medicine, and was extremely active in psychotherapeutic work. He took a lively interest in the psychological problems of the tuberculous patient, acting for some years as psychological adviser to the Papworth Village Settlement. He was also active in the Child Guidance Movement, being for a time director of the Cambridge Child Guidance Clinic. In all this work Banister enjoyed the full co-operation of his medical colleagues in Cambridge and farther afield. Although his interest in psychotherapy was essentially practical, he found time to publish a short book outlining recent theories in psychopathology and their application to problems of neurosis. He also published jointly two papers on the experimental induction of illusions of memory.

As a teacher, Banister is widely remembered for his balanced approach to psychological issues and his firm reliance on the findings of experiment. He was an expositor of fact rather than theory, seldom allowing himself to be drawn into the psychological controversies of his time. Although this lack of the critical concern seemed to some a limitation, Banister was a much cleverer man than many of his pupils realized, his hesitations in regard to theory being due very largely to intellectual modesty. Had he been less diffident a man his contribution to psychology might well have been greater.

O. L. ZANGWILL

NEWS and VIEWS

"World of Opportunity": the *New Scientist*

It is surprising to find that despite the widespread attention directed to the United Nations conference last February on the application of science and technology for the benefit of the less-developed areas, the admirable issue "World of Opportunity" of the *New Scientist* of February 14 still appears to remain the only one in which that conference has been at all adequately handled by British periodicals. This comparative neglect, in spite of copious literature distributed by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in no way detracts from the excellence of the issue of the *New Scientist* which is as welcome for its enterprise as for its intrinsic and timely merit. Besides messages from the president of the conference, Prof. M. S. Thacker (of whom a profile is also included in the issue), and a message from Sir William Slater, leader of the British delegation, there are special articles by Dr. R. Revelle, science adviser to the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, describing the Mission to the Indus of a panel of American scientists who studied irrigation in West Pakistan, and by Roy Herbert on the aftermath of the conference. A selection of papers presented at the conference is reproduced. These are by Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, on planning for science and technology in emergent countries; by Dr. S. H. Crowdy, on "Are Ploughs Obsolete?"; by F. G. Lamont, on the genesis of a chemical industry; and by G. Swaine, on fighting the plague of the army worm in East Africa.

The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin

At a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin on March 16, Prof. J. L. Synge, director of the School of Theoretical Physics in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, was elected president for the third year in succession. The following officers were elected: Prof. B. O Cuiv, secretary of the Academy and secretary for Irish Studies; Prof. J. J. Tierney, secretary of the Polite Literature and Antiquities Committee; Prof. P. J. Nolan, secretary of the Science Committee; Dr. V. C. Barry, treasurer; and Dr. J. St. P. Cowell, executive secretary. Dr. G. W. P. Dawson, Prof. M. A. Ellison, Prof. H. Halberstam, Prof. T. Jones Hughes, Dr. G. MacNiocaill, Prof. T. Murphy, and Dr. L. S. O'Riadaigh were elected members of the Academy.

Computation at Manchester:

Prof. S. Gill

DR. STANLEY GILL has been appointed to a newly created (part-time) chair in computation in the Faculty of Technology at the University of Manchester and the Manchester College of Science and Technology. Dr. Gill was educated at Worthing High School and entered St. John's College, Cambridge, with a State scholarship and a major scholarship in 1942. He was successful in the Mathematics Tripos in 1945. In 1946 he accepted a temporary appointment at the National Physical Laboratory where he was engaged in scientific computing and in the design of ACE, one of the early computers designed there. He returned to Cambridge in 1948 and was