

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany at New South Wales:

Prof. H. N. Barber, F.R.S.

PROF. H. NEWTON BARBER has been appointed to the Foundation chair of botany at the University of New South Wales. Prof. Barber has been professor of botany at the University of Tasmania since 1948. In March of this year, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, "distinguished for his work in experimental cytology, population genetics and the genetics of flowering". He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and a Member of the Advisory Council of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, being chairman of the Tasmanian State Committee. A graduate of the University of Cambridge, he gained first-class honours in both of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1935 and 1936, and was awarded a Ph.D. degree by the University of London after spending four years as a research cytologist at the John Innes Horticultural Institute. During the Second World War he was a scientific officer at the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Ministry of Aircraft Production, and in 1946 accepted appointment as lecturer in botany at the University of Sydney. Prof. Barber spent the years 1953 and 1954 at the California Institute of Technology on a Rockefeller special fellowship, and was visiting professor at the Australian National University and at University College, Townsville, during 1961. Prof. Barber will become head of the Department of Botany, which is one of the four Departments which form the School of Biological Sciences.

Plant Physiology and Biochemistry at Newcastle:

Prof. S. L. Ranson

THE appointment of Dr. S. L. Ranson to a chair in plant physiology and biochemistry, personal to him from July 1, 1963, at Newcastle upon Tyne (University of Durham), will be welcomed by his many friends and colleagues. Dr. Ranson was trained in the Department of Botany in King's College, and commenced research under Prof. (now emeritus professor) Meirion Thomas, on Crassulacean acid metabolism. He was appointed lecturer in 1946, senior lecturer in 1958, and reader in 1960. During the academic session 1949-50 he held an Earl Grey memorial fellowship at Washington University, St. Louis, where he worked with Prof. M. D. Kamen. He has extended the work on Crassulacean acid metabolism initiated by Prof. Thomas by the application of isotopic methods and he has investigated the enzyme systems involved. All his work has been characterized by meticulous attention to detail and a very critical appraisal of the results. Dr. Ranson and his group are now extending their studies on the relation of acid metabolism to the more general problems of carbon dioxide fixation and intermediary metabolism. He has collaborated with Prof. Thomas in recent editions of the latter's well-known textbook and he has also provided an important contribution on techniques for the separation and estimation of plant acids in *Modern Methods of Plant Analysis*. This appointment recognizes not only Dr. Ranson's considerable personal achievement but also the importance and notable part played by plant physiology and biochemistry in the Department of Botany at Newcastle.

Physics at Manchester :

Prof. S. F. Edwards

DR. S. F. EDWARDS, reader in theoretical physics in the University of Manchester, has been appointed to a newly established additional chair of physics, in the field of theoretical physics, as from October 1. Dr. Edwards

received his school education at Swansea Grammar School. In 1945 he entered Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to read for the Mathematical Tripos. During 1949-51 he was a research student at Cambridge and in 1951 was awarded the J. H. Cheate Memorial fellowship at the University of Harvard, where he worked under Prof. J. Schwinger. He then spent a year at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, returning to Britain in 1953. In that year he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. (Cambridge) and was appointed Imperial Chemical Industries Research Fellow in the University of Birmingham. Two years later, he was appointed senior lecturer in theoretical physics, and in October 1961 promoted to a readership in theoretical physics in the University of Manchester.

Royal Society Research Professorships

THE following have been appointed to Royal Society research professorships: Dr. R. A. Hinde, of the Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour, Department of Zoology, Cambridge, who is well known for his work in the field of the experimental study of animal behaviour, has been appointed as Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Cambridge as from October 1; Prof. F. Sondheimer, head of the Chemistry Department at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovoth, Israel, who is distinguished for his work in the field of organic chemistry, Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Cambridge in the University Chemical Laboratory—he is expected to take up his appointment during 1964.

British Aid to Developing Countries

THE first of a series of pamphlets giving a factual survey of British aid to developing countries, issued by the Overseas Development Institute, deals with educational assistance (*British Aid—3: Educational Assistance—a Factual Survey of the Government and Private Contribution to Overseas Development through Education and Training*. Pp. 125. London: Overseas Development Institute, 1963. 7s. 6d.). Following a short historical survey, it sets forth first the part played by the British Government, describing both the organization of the effort and the scale and character of the official programme. Next the private contribution is described, including that of the missionary societies and churches, the various volunteer schemes, and the part played by the foundations and trusts and the universities. Finally, information on overseas students in Britain is summarized, including their distribution in various types of institutes, the Government contribution, the various technical assistance schemes, etc., and the role of the British Council. The pamphlet provides a most useful and comprehensive picture of an effort that already amounts to a very considerable total and one to which full justice is seldom done, though the account is neither designed nor intended to induce complacency. It points out specifically that Britain's present programmes, valuable as they are, represent only a small part of what needs to be done. The study, and those to follow, have been requested by the Foreign Office. The pamphlet questions whether the present system, in which eight different Government departments control funds for educational assistance, allows priorities to be determined effectively. It suggests that British teachers going abroad may not be staying long enough in their posts and that the possibility of a career service for British teachers overseas should be reconsidered. It considers that there are some gaps in the programme of financial assistance and that greater efforts should be made in teacher and in technical training, the provision of cheap books and