

Of the many centres of learning generously patronized by Lord Nuffield, who had a major interest in educational opportunity and in the promotion of graduate studies in particular, the University of Oxford not unnaturally claimed first and closest attention. The bulk of benefactions totalling about £4 million was devoted to the development of two novel but enduring features of the intellectual life of that University. First was the setting up in 1936 of a Medical School Trust, for which in some degree the earlier help for an Institute of Medical Research was a preparation. An endowment of £1½ million to provide the university with a postgraduate medical school was, in a characteristic gesture, increased at short notice, though with rigorous forethought, to £2 million. This made possible the establishment of a full range of professorial clinical departments which was to include, for the first time at this level, the virtually unrecognized speciality of anaesthetics.

The second major benefaction to Oxford followed quickly with £1 million for the foundation of a new college to bear Lord Nuffield's name. That this came to fruition as a fully postgraduate institution specializing in the social sciences instead of as a college of engineering, the founder's original wish, is an interesting chapter of Oxford history; but Lord Nuffield lived to see his new college winning for itself a first-rate reputation as a unique academic centre where scholars and men of affairs could mingle and debate at the highest level the solution of social problems of many kinds.

It is beyond reckoning to assess the full effects of these and the many other gifts Lord Nuffield made with such generosity, often with extraordinary prescience and timeliness, and to such varied and long-term good purpose. Without his support, and lively encouragement, much of our present body of scientific and medical knowledge would unquestionably still be concealed from us. Much pain and hardship would have gone unrelieved, and many owing him their fame and high positions would never have received that timely and essential help at the outset of their careers. The death of so great a pioneer and public benefactor marks the end of an era. It is, however, the greatest consolation that many of his principles and purposes are embodied in the trusts and institutions which he founded and the work of which will long survive him. Much more can yet be done therefore, in Lord Nuffield's name, for the further advancement of man's knowledge of himself and of his environment, and for the creation of a happier and healthier human society.

J. W. McANUFF

#### Prof. J. E. P. Wagstaff

THE death of Prof. J. E. P. Wagstaff on August 2 at the age of seventy-two marks the end of an era. On the previous day the Durham and Newcastle Divisions of the then University of Durham became separate Universities. Before 1924 the Durham Division had faculties of art and theology only. Wagstaff was the first professor of physics in the Division and he continued to serve it until his retirement 31 years later; the development and cherishing of the school of physics in Durham was his real life's work.

He began with empty laboratories, one lecturer and a determination to build an effective department. The first undergraduates appeared in 1924, about half a dozen of them, and were the recipients of well-balanced lecture and laboratory courses. This could only have been achieved by putting the needs of the undergraduates first and regarding all other matters as secondary by comparison. Certainly for the rest of his life this was Wagstaff's attitude, expressed in the progressive development of courses on one hand, and in the refusal to accept perfunctory efforts by his students on the other.

To a young department his feeling (never overtly stated), that science is part of the aesthetic pattern of life and that its integrity contributes to manliness, was of

great importance. It found expression in his lectures, which were lucid, highly individual in style and, when junior classes were concerned, lavishly illustrated by experiment. It was also communicated to learners in laboratory classes in which he took an active part until a few years before his retirement. The many friendships so formed continue to serve the Department of Physics as former undergraduates send their pupils to it.

He had been an undergraduate of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a First in Part I of the Mathematics Tripos and a First in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos. In 1922 he was made a Fellow of St. John's College.

His scientific career began in the First World War, with work on explosives, projectiles and waves as a research physicist at the Royal Arsenal. Later, when he was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Leeds, he continued to work on problems in this field, especially those connected with the impact of steel rods and spheres. At this time he published papers showing notable capacity for theoretical and experimental attack, and was awarded a London D.Sc.

Unfortunately his fine initial period at Durham was followed by a long spell of ill-health and his research publications came to an end, though he continued to supervise research students and to encourage their own publications. Moreover, by himself carrying out most of the administrative work of the Department, he helped to provide his lecturers with reasonable time for research.

During the whole of this time Durham was a federal university and the Departments in Newcastle and Durham worked in co-operation, especially in examining. Wagstaff's colleagues at Newcastle came to feel the same affection and respect for him as his lecturers in Durham, and he in turn was conscious of the valuable support received from the older Department.

On his retirement in 1955 he was made emeritus professor. He continued to live in Durham, happily married, interested in university affairs and taking a particular pleasure in attending the annual dinners of student scientific societies. His colleagues and friends are grateful to have known a warm, idiosyncratic and most friendly man.

He married Dorothy Margaret, daughter of G. G. McRobie of Portsoy, by whom he had a daughter and a son: all survive him.

W. A. PROUSE

#### Prof. C. S. Rouppert

CASIMIR STEPHEN ROUPPERT, professor of botany at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, died in London on July 11 at the age of seventy-eight. He was born in 1885 at Warsaw, and in 1904 became a student of the Natural History Faculty of the University of Warsaw. As the University was soon closed down, Rouppert continued his botanical studies at the University of Cracow, under Prof. E. Janczewski, the well-known research worker of the genus *Ribes*. In 1907 Rouppert submitted a thesis for his doctorate on mycology, "Revision du Genre *Sphaerosoma*", which was published in the *Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences* in 1909. Afterwards he worked as research assistant to Prof. A. Maurizio, M. Raciborski and E. Godlewski. His work on plant hairs, "The Stinging Hairs and Glandular Hairs", was published in the *Bulletin* during 1915-18, and after submitting it to the Examination Council he became a qualified lecturer in botany, 'Docent'. Rouppert's further investigations on this subject were published in various French journals, *Bulletin, Muséum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle* (1926), and *Revue de Pathologie Végétale* (1926). In 1925 he was granted a Rockefeller scholarship and spent a year studying in Paris and in the Island of Java. After his return to Cracow, he organized the Research Station for Plant Protection, and in 1927 was appointed ordinary professor of botany at the Jagiellonian University, lecturing to students in natural history, agricultural