

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. Roupert

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, Roupert continued his botanical studies at the University of Cracow, under Prof. E. Janczewski, the well-known research worker of the genus *Ribes*. In 1907 Roupert 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'. Roupert'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

and dispensing chemistry. During 1932-33 he was dean of the Agricultural Faculty at the Jagiellonian University. After the outbreak of war he left Poland for Hungary, Egypt, Palestine and finally, at the end of 1947, arrived in England.

It is impossible to give a full account of his 74 publications in Polish, French and German. I can only briefly mention here that his work on plant physiology has been published in *Bulletin, Société Botanique* and *Comptes Rendus, Académie des Sciences, Paris*. His papers on Flagellatae and Diatomae can be found in the *Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences* or in the Polish natural history journal, *Kosmos*. His work on the taxonomy of fungi and on the distribution of fungi in Poland was published in the *Bulletin of the Academy of Science*. Rouppert described several new species of Discomycetes in the *Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences* (1908). He was especially interested in the distribution of *Cronartium ribicola* (white pine blister rust). In his work published in German, "Blasonrost der Arve in der Hohen Tatra" (*Bulletin of the Cracow Academy of Sciences*, 1935), he gave an account of his records of white pine rust on Swiss stone pine in the High Tatras. Rouppert was of the opinion that this rust in the Tatras is a relic of the Tertiary period from the time when the Carpathian and Siberian stone pine had a continuous distribution. He

had also theories on the relationship of various *Cronartia*, but unfortunately these remained unpublished because of his long illness.

Rouppert also worked for the improvement of the overpopulated rural communities near Cracow. He was responsible for establishing many shops belonging to the Co-operative Society in the district of Wieliczka. His interest in improving the sanitary and health conditions in towns resulted in his being elected president of the Society for Gardening and of the Society for Developing Health Resorts and Spas (of the Cracow district). He was also a member of the Physiographic Commission at the Academy of Sciences in Cracow; of the Polish Botanical Society; of the French Botanical Society (*Société Botanique de France*); and president of the Polish Natural History Copernicus Society. In addition, he was a member of the Académie Internationale Libre des Sciences et des Lettres; of the Association of Polish Professors and Lecturers in London; and secretary of the Polish Society of Arts and Sciences in London.

In his private life, Rouppert was a charming person, full of courtesy and good humour. Being the Warden of the Relief Society of the students of Jagiellonian University from 1929 until 1935, Rouppert was very popular among young people because of his kindness and friendliness.

S. BĄTKO

NEWS and VIEWS

The 1963 Nobel Prize for Medicine

THE 1963 Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded jointly to: Sir John Eccles, F.R.S., professor of physiology in the Australian National University, Canberra; Prof. A. F. Huxley, F.R.S., Jodrell professor of physiology in University College, London; and Prof. A. L. Hodgkin, F.R.S., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society. All three Laureates are well known for their work in neurophysiology.

National Physical Laboratory : Dr. O. Simpson

DR. OLIVER SIMPSON has been appointed to succeed Dr. J. A. Pople as superintendent of the Basic Physics Division of the National Physical Laboratory. Dr. Simpson, who is thirty-eight, is at present head of solid-state physics at the Admiralty Services Electronics Research Laboratory, Baldock; he will take up his new post in January 1964. Dr. Simpson was born in London and educated at Highgate School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1944 he joined the Admiralty Research Laboratory, and was engaged in the development of infrared detectors. After the Second World War he returned to Cambridge to carry out research at the Cavendish Laboratory on photoconductivity in semiconductors, first as a research scholar and later as Fellow of Trinity College. In 1949, Dr. Simpson was appointed an assistant professor of physics at the University of Michigan. He returned to England in 1952 as an Imperial Chemical Industries Research Fellow in the Theoretical Chemistry Department in Cambridge, before joining the Services Electronics Research Laboratory in 1956. Here he started research on the electronic properties of organic semiconductors, with particular emphasis on phenomena associated with the migration of excitons in crystals such as anthracene. More recently he has been interested in the interaction of high-energy particles with crystals, and the development of semiconductor particle counters. Since 1956 he has been head of the solid-state physics group at the Services Electronics Research Laboratory, which, among other topics, has been concerned with research on the III-V compound semiconductors and superconductivity

in thin metal films. He was promoted to deputy chief scientific officer on special merit in 1962.

Dr. Pople, who was appointed superintendent of the then newly created Basic Physics Division at the National Physical Laboratory in 1959 (see *Nature*, 182, 85; 1958), has been appointed Carnegie professor of chemical physics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania. Dr. Pople was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1961.

Biology at York : Prof. M. Williamson

DR. MARK WILLIAMSON has been appointed professor of biology in the new University of York, as from 1965. Dr. Williamson, who is thirty-five, will be one of the youngest biology professors in Britain. He was educated at Groton, Rugby and Christ Church, Oxford, where he took first-class honours in zoology in 1950. After National Service he returned to Oxford in 1952 as a departmental demonstrator in zoology. In 1958 he took charge, as a senior scientific officer, of the Herring Section of the Scottish Marine Biological Association's Oceanographical Laboratory in Edinburgh. In January 1963 he became a lecturer in the Zoology Department of the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Williamson's research has been mainly concerned with three different aspects of population dynamics: ecological and genetical investigations of single terrestrial species; marine plankton communities and hydrography; and, most recently, experimental populations of micro-organisms. His papers are particularly notable for his use of mathematics in illuminating population problems. At a time when the main trend in biology is towards physics and chemistry, the appointment to a new chair in a new university of someone with Dr. Williamson's interests is especially to be welcomed.

Physiological Optics at the University of California, Berkeley : Prof. H. B. Barlow

DR. H. B. BARLOW, assistant director of research in the Physiological Laboratory, Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of physiological optics in the School of Optometry, University of California, Berkeley, in succession to the late Prof. Gordon Walls. Dr. Barlow was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge,