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 He had also theories on the relationship of various *Cronartia*, but unfortunately these remained unpublished because of his long illness.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

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,