Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London

THE day after the publication of the Report of the Committee on Higher Education, Lord Robbins, the chairman, was the Special Visitor at the annual Commemoration Day ceremony of Imperial College held recently in the Royal Albert Hall (see p. 621 of this issue). That the College itself is poised on the threshold of a new epoch and ready to accept another challenge is evident from the report by Sir Patrick Linstead, the Rector. The initial target of 3,000 full-time students has been reached. The figure includes 1,175 postgraduates and 120 women students. New targets will soon be set and double the number of women will be welcome. The academic staff now numbers more than five hundred and has been strongly reinforced at all levels, particularly at the top, where the recruitment of several outstanding men contrasts with gloomy utterances on the emigration of scientists.

A radical change in the structure of the College is that 20 per cent of the students are in residence compared with 8 per cent last session. More than six hundred students live within a quarter of a mile of the Queen's Tower of the College. At the beginning of the term, H.R.H. The Princess Margaret launched the great addition to the residential and social facilities in Prince's Gardens. A most welcome anonymous benefaction of a quarter of a million pounds will make it possible to build the next hall of residence in the same area, where a long-term plan is gradually taking shape. The main task of demolition is over. Two major building projects were finished last year—the Civil Engineering building and the South Side building in Prince's Gardens. Four large academic building projects are now in hand.

Dunn Nutritional Laboratory, Cambridge: Dr. L. J. Harris

DR. LESLIE J. HARRIS, who became the first director of this laboratory on its inception by the Medical Research Council in 1926, retired on August 29. A native of Liverpool, and a graduate of the University of Manchester, he went to Cambridge as a young research student under the late Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins. There he soon won distinction, and in 1925 the Meldola Medal of the Institute of Chemistry, for his pioneer work in applying the theory of titration curves to amino-acids, polypeptides and proteins. His ingenuity enabled him to distinguish clearly between zwitterion and non-zwitterion molecules. After his appointment at the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory his interests were concentrated on vitamins. He originated the assessment of human nutritional status, by saturation tests, and also the bradycardia test, with rats, for thiamin deficiency. He developed chemical methods commonly used for the assay of ascorbic and nicotinic acids, discovered 'monkey pellagra', and made illuminating investigations with rats on the mechanism and psychology of appetite. During the Second World War he supervised joint work between the Medical Research Council and the Food Investigation Board on methods for the preservation of foods, usually by dehydration, without the excessive destruction of their vitamins. He played a large part in the foundation of the Nutrition Society (Great Britain), of which he was the first honorary secretary (1941–47) and later president (1953–56). He was also a joint founder and secretary-general (1946–60) of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, a body which has held six highly successful triennial congresses, most recently in Washington (1960) and Edinburgh (1963). His semi-popular book, *Vitamins in Theory and Practice*, has been widely read and translated into several languages. To mark the completion of his long period as director, Dr. Harris was presented, by present and past members of his staff, with his portrait, painted in oils by Mrs. B. J. Miles.

Dr. E. Kodicek

DR. EGON KODICEK has been appointed to succeed Dr. Harris. Dr. Kodicek has been working at the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory since 1939. He graduated M.D. in Prague in 1932 and later became assistant physician at the Department of Internal Medicine at Charles University. In 1938 he was appointed physician-in-charge of the Endocrinological Out-patient Unit. In the same year he was awarded the Diploma of Specialist for Diseases and Metabolic Disorders. Dr. Kodicek came to Britain in 1939 as a Scholar of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. He obtained the Ph.D. degree of the University of Cambridge in 1942 for his thesis *Biochemical Studies on Nicotinic Acid*. The same year he was appointed a member of the Scientific Staff of the Medical Research Council. During the War he took part in investigations on the effects of dehydration on the vitamin B content of foodstuffs and was a member of various Government sub-committees. Since the War, Dr. Kodicek has carried out experimental work on a wide range of topics which have included bacterial metabolism and the effect of ascorbic acid deficiency on wound healing. He has also made investigations into the nature of bound nicotinic acid and its relation to the pathogenesis of pellagra. More recently, Dr. Kodicek has made an exhaustive study of the distribution and metabolism of vitamin D in the animal body; this work was greatly facilitated by his successful synthesis of ^{14}C-labelled vitamin D. Dr. Kodicek has been a visiting lecturer to a number of universities in the United States and was elected a Committee Member of the Biochemical Society in 1961.

Inorganic Chemistry in the University of Sheffield: Prof. R. Mason

PROF. RONALD MASON, who was recently appointed to the newly established chair of inorganic chemistry in the University of Sheffield, took up his duties there on October 1. Dr. Mason began his scientific career by taking a first degree at University College, Cardiff, and thereafter studied under Dame Kathleen Lonsdale at University College, London, obtaining his doctorate in 1953 in crystallography. For the next seven years he was Research Fellow of the British Empire Cancer Campaign in the Department of Chemistry at University College and undertook research work into the structure of biologically active molecules, X-ray studies of thermal vibrations and the applications of quantum chemistry to problems in molecular biology. From 1960 he was lecturer in inorganic chemistry in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. His more recent work has been concerned with structural investigations on a variety of transition metal complexes, notably those where there is both σ- and π-bonding, and on paramagnetic anisotropies of single crystals of tetrahedral cobalt(II) species, potassium ferricyanide and di-π-*cyclo*pentadienyl nickel and their relation to the electron distribution in these complexes. He has also had a continuing interest in energy and charge migration phenomena in molecular solids and biological systems.

Prof. Mason is the author of some fifty research papers and co-editor of the series *Advances in Crystallography*, *Advances in Radiation Biology* (to appear shortly) and of *Physical Processes in Radiation Biology*, and he has been visiting research professor in the Department of Biophysics at Michigan State University and visitor to the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island. The understanding of modern inorganic chemistry is especially dependent on structural analysis, and Prof. Mason's expert knowledge in this area, coupled with his theoretical background and broad interests, should enable his new University to develop a thriving school of contemporary inorganic research in the widest sense.

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