

found necessary to provide a small laboratory in the Infirmary for his special use. At the same time the personnel required to meet the calls on the medical physics sections gradually increased, the use and direction of which fell very largely on Mr. Griffith.

After the end of the Second World War it became evident that the laboratory accommodation at Foresterhill was insufficient to meet all requirements. As a result it was decided to erect a laboratory fully equipped with research rooms, workshop and office apartments in close contact with the Medical School at Foresterhill. Much of the work in connexion with this project fell to be carried through by Mr. Griffith.

The development of this laboratory, a considerable undertaking in itself, he carried on along with an ample share in the teaching of both theoretical and practical work in the parent Department of Natural Philosophy. In spite of all, he found time to produce several publications and in consequence was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1954.

From his entry to the University in 1923 until his death in 1964 he devoted his energies wholeheartedly to the development of his subject. Coming as assistant

lecturer, he steadily improved his status to that of reader in medical physics in charge of that division in the University Physics Department. His students held him in the highest regard, and referred affectionately to him always as "Harry". Even those who did not come immediately under his care testify to the same warmth of feeling, and all felt that in his death they had lost one who had been their friend.

Further evidence of this ability to inspire lasting affection is exemplified by the friendship between him and two men of different nationalities—one a German, Dr. Zimmer, whom he met when he first went to Germany and with whom he continued to work for the rest of his life; the other an Englishman, H. Heckstall-Smith, who has recounted in his book, *The Doubtful School-Master*, his first encounter with H. D. Griffith in the Cavendish Laboratory, an encounter which led to a life-long reciprocal exchange of ideas and outlooks. When he came to Aberdeen, he met, in the Natural Philosophy Department, Miss J. M. Jack, herself an honours graduate in physics. A friendship grew up rapidly between them, and in 1927 they were married. They have one daughter who graduated with honours in physics. A. E. M. GEDDES

NEWS and VIEWS

Max Planck Medallists of the German Physical Society: Prof. G. E. Uhlenbeck and Prof. S. A. Goudsmit

PROF. GEORGE E. UHLENBECK and Prof. Samuel A. Goudsmit have been awarded the Max Planck Medal of the German Physical Society. This gold medal, one of the highest awards in international science, was conferred on the 106th anniversary of the birth of Planck, the great pioneer of modern physics. Profs. Uhlenbeck and Goudsmit, in 1925, discovered the 'spin of the electron', a cornerstone of present atomic theory. Dr. Goudsmit is also deputy chairman of the Department of Physics in the Brookhaven National Laboratory and managing editor of the American Physical Society. Both scientists received their education in The Netherlands, and joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1927. Prof. Uhlenbeck went to the Rockefeller Institute in 1961. Dr. Goudsmit joined the Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1948 and has been a visiting professor in the Rockefeller Institute since 1957. During the Second World War both were connected with radar research in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Goudsmit, moreover, was the scientific head of a secret intelligence mission which moved in with Allied troops and reported, in the winter of 1944, that German scientists had failed to make any significant progress in their work on atomic explosives.

Chemistry in the University of East Anglia:

Prof. S. F. Mason

DR. S. F. MASON has been appointed professor of chemistry in the new University of East Anglia at Norwich. Dr. Mason, who is forty years of age, was educated at the Wyggeston Grammar School, Leicester, and Wadham College, Oxford; he graduated with first-class honours in chemistry in 1945, and obtained his M.A. and D.Phil. in 1947. During 1947-53 Dr. Mason was tutor in chemistry at Wadham College and departmental demonstrator in the Museum for the History of Sciences at Oxford; during this period he published a number of papers on the history of sciences and a successful book, *A History of the Sciences*, which has been translated into French, German and Japanese. In 1953 he was appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Medical Chemistry of the Australian National University, then housed in London, where he worked on the ultra-violet and infra-red spectroscopy of heterocyclic compounds. In 1956 he was appointed lecturer in chemistry in the

University of Exeter, where he became a senior lecturer in 1961 and reader in chemical spectroscopy in 1963. During his time in Exeter, Dr. Mason published many papers in the fields of spectroscopy, and its application to structural problems, and in theoretical chemistry; during the past two years he has taken up the investigation of optical rotatory power, particularly circular dichroism and optical rotatory dispersion, in which field, too, he has published a number of important papers. Dr. Mason will take up his new appointment on October 1.

Water Resources of England and Wales

A WATER Resources Board is being set up under the Water Resources Act, 1963, and will have the task of advising the Minister of Housing and Local Government on water policy in England and Wales. Its main practical tasks will be to build up comprehensive information about water resources and demands, to work out action needed to augment resources, to secure the promotion of schemes which it recommends and to commission and supervise research. The Board's permanent offices will be outside London, probably in Reading, although at the outset it will operate from Government offices in London. Twenty-nine new river authorities, also set up under the 1963 Act, will supersede existing river boards and will have important new functions relating to the management of water resources, including a licensing control of abstractions and impoundings of water. Statutory consultations about the size and composition of these authorities, which will have a membership of between 21 and 31, and will be the executive arm of the new system, are now going on.

The following have been appointed members of the newly formed Water Resources Board: *Chairman*, Sir William Goode, until recently Governor and Commander-in-Chief, North Borneo; *Deputy Chairman*, Mr. A. G. McLellan, general manager, Sunderland and South Shields Water Co.; *Members*, Mr. R. A. Banks, until recently a director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Prof. H. C. Darby, professor of geography, University College, London, and until recently a member of the National Parks Commission; Dr. Idris Jones, a former member of the Welsh Advisory Water Committee and lately director-general of research, National Coal Board; Mr. W. A. Muddell, chairman of the Executive Council of the River Boards' Association; Mr. N. A. F. Rowntree, consulting engineer (full-time director of the Board's activities).