

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Director of Observatories Branch, Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys :

Dr. J. H. Hodgson

DR. J. H. HODGSON has been appointed director of the Observatories Branch of the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. He has been chief of the Observatory's Seismology Division since 1952. Since joining the Observatory staff in 1949, Dr. Hodgson has specialized in research on the nature of the Earth's crust in the Canadian Shield and investigations of the mechanism of earthquakes. In 1958 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is a member of many national and international organizations, and recently was elected president of the Unesco Intergovernmental Meetings on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering and president of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior. Dr. Hodgson was born in Toronto in 1913, and was educated in Ottawa public and secondary schools, and at the University of Toronto. He received a B.A. in applied mathematics in 1940, M.A. in geophysics in 1946, and Ph.D. in geophysics in 1951.

## Dominion Astronomer :

Dr. R. M. Petrie

DR. R. M. PETRIE has been named Dominion Astronomer in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of astrophysics. He joined the staff of the Observatories Branch of the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in 1935 and, except for service with the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War, has been engaged in astrophysical studies. A large part of his research has consisted of measurement of line-of-sight speed of stars and its application to problems of stellar motion, and the calculation of orbits and dimensions of double stars. Dr. Petrie was educated at primary and secondary schools of Victoria, B.C., and the University of British Columbia, where he graduated with honours in physics in 1928. At the University of Michigan he obtained his Master's degree in 1929 and Ph.D. (astronomy) in 1932. He is a former president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and former vice-president of the American Astronomical Society.

## Physics in the University of Manchester:

Prof. J. C. Willmott

DR. J. C. WILLMOTT, reader in physics in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed professor of physics in the University of Manchester, from a date to be arranged, in succession to Prof. E. B. Paul (*Nature*, 189, 876; 1961). Dr. Willmott was an undergraduate in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, obtaining a B.Sc. in 1942, with first-class honours in physics, and becoming an associate of the Royal College of Science in the same year. He then completed his military service, from 1942 until 1946, as a regimental officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers before commencing two years postgraduate study at the Imperial College of Science and Technology on infra-red spectroscopy, for which he was awarded a Ph.D. in June 1949. Dr. Willmott joined the academic staff of the University of Liverpool in 1948 as an assistant lecturer in physics, being promoted to lecturer in 1950, to senior lecturer in 1958, and to reader in 1963.

## Applied Mathematics in Queen's College, Dundee:

Prof. D. S. Jones

PROF. D. S. JONES has been appointed to the newly created Baxter chair of applied mathematics at Queen's

College, Dundee. Prof. Jones was educated at Welverhampton Grammar School, from which he went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, with an open scholarship. His scholastic career was temporarily interrupted by war-time service with the Royal Air Force, during which time he was mentioned in despatches in 1943 and awarded the M.B.E. in 1945. Returning to Oxford, he graduated with first-class honours in mathematics in 1947, and in the same year, having been elected to a Commonwealth fellowship, went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1948 he was appointed to the staff of the Mathematics Department at the University of Manchester and in 1954 was given the post of tutor for science. He remained there until 1957 when, at the age of thirty-four, he was appointed to the chair of mathematics at the University College of North Staffordshire, now the University of Keele. Prof. Jones is well known for his work in the field of electromagnetism, in particular the theory of diffraction, and has recently written a book on the subject. He has also written a book on electrical and mechanical oscillations and has published papers on such topics as asymptotic expansions of multiple integrals and theory of unsteady motion of aerofoils. In 1957 he was awarded a D.Sc. by the University of Manchester. In the session 1962-63 he paid a second visit to the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York, as the visiting research professor. He has recently been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications. Prof. Jones will take up his appointment on January 1, 1965.

## Physiology in the University of Birmingham:

Prof. S. M. Hilton

DR. S. M. HILTON has been appointed to the Bowman chair of physiology in succession to Prof. I. Bush. Dr. Hilton will take up his appointment on January 1, 1965. Dr. Hilton is a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council, and has been in the Division of Physiology and Pharmacology at the National Institute for Medical Research since 1952. Dr. Hilton was born in 1921; he was a senior scholar at St. Paul's School, London, and from there he won an Exhibition to Jesus College, Cambridge. He completed Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1941, and Part II in 1948. He took the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. in 1944, and Ph.D. in 1956. After qualifying in medicine he held various house appointments at Guy's Hospital and was resident medical officer at Preston Hall Hospital, near Maidstone. His period of national service was spent at the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, during which time he was also a research assistant in the Department of Physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1950, after leaving the Royal Air Force, he worked for two years in the Department of Physiology at Cambridge and was in receipt of a personal grant from the Medical Research Council. Dr. Hilton's main field of research has been the circulatory system, with particular regard to mechanism of the changes in blood flow occurring in organs and tissues during activity. Recently he turned from the investigation of local chemical and nervous factors involved in such reactions to that of their regulation by the central nervous system, and the integration of cardiovascular responses in the behaviour and physical activity of the conscious animal.

## Royal Society Expedition to the Solomon Islands

THE Royal Society has announced its intention of mounting a scientific expedition to the British Solomon Islands Protectorate in 1965. Little is known of the arc of islands from New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomon