

Ugla was one of the kindest and friendliest of men, and much liked by all who knew him. Although a bachelor he had great sympathy with young people, and even when very busy himself would willingly give time and effort to help others. Nevertheless, at times he could be very reserved, as if, like Browning's grammarian, he feared 'to draw a circle premature'. There is but little doubt that with him his research work came first. About two years ago he suffered a stroke, but made a good recovery. He died from heart failure on July 30, 1964.

Among the many honours conferred on Arvid Ugla were two Swedish knighthoods and the foreign membership of the Linnean Society of London. S. SAVAGE

Dr. M. Doporto

DR. MARIANO DOPORTO, director of the Irish Meteorological Service, died suddenly in Dublin on September 8.

Dr. Doporto was born in Cáceres, Spain, in 1902, and studied physics at the Universities of Madrid and Barcelona. He joined the Spanish Meteorological Office in 1921, and was in charge of the weather forecast centre at Barcelona at the outbreak of civil war in Spain. Some time afterwards he left Spain, and in 1939 joined the newly formed Irish Meteorological Service, serving first

at the flying-boat base in Foynes. Two years later he moved to Dublin, and in 1948 succeeded Mr. A. H. Nagle, becoming the second director of the Service. At about the same time he became an Irish citizen.

Dr. Doporto was the author of a large number of scientific papers. His most important contributions concerned the extended solutions of the general equations of motion and the cellular structure of the atmosphere. In 1943 he deduced theoretically that an upper isopycnic layer must occur at a height of about 25 km, a prediction which was later verified. Shortly before his death, he was working on a possible association between noctilucent clouds and the isopycnic layer at 80 km.

Dr. Doporto's skill as an organizer and administrator was much in evidence in the development of the Irish Meteorological Service during the past sixteen years. He was responsible for the completion of the network of observing stations, and for the installation of laboratories dealing with atmospheric radioactivity and the chemical analysis of air and rain. He served on the Board of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies and took a leading part in international meteorological affairs through the World Meteorological Organization and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

Dr. Doporto leaves a widow and three sons.

P. M. AUSTIN BOURKE

NEWS and VIEWS

Automatic Data Processing in the Manchester College of Science and Technology : Prof. G. Black

DR. GORDON BLACK has been appointed to the (part-time) chair in automatic data processing in the Faculty of Technology in the Manchester College of Science and Technology. Dr. Black, who is forty-one years of age, was educated at the Warrington County Grammar School and the University of Durham. After gaining a B.Sc. degree at Durham in 1945, he worked for a short time at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in the Research and Development Department, before moving in 1946 to the British Scientific Instrument Research Association. He remained with the Association until 1956 and during this ten-year period he qualified for a Ph.D (London) degree and a diploma of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, following extra-mural research extending over two years in the field of technical optics. He also spent three further years on research in association with the Computing Laboratory at the University of Manchester, working on automatic numerical optimization. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 1951. In 1956 he accepted an appointment as principal scientific officer with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Risley, Warrington, working mainly on computer applications. He was appointed senior principal scientific officer in the Computing Section at Risley in 1958 and became deputy chief scientific officer (technical manager) of the Computing Section in 1959. His staff totals 60 (including 30 graduates) and he has been concerned with the operations of three computers, the *Mercury*, the IBM 704/7090, and the *PACE* analogue computer.

Professional Civil Servants

State Service for August 1964, the journal of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, reports the debate on motions presented at the annual delegate conference, briefly summarizes the conflict between the Institution and the Ministry of Aviation over the conditions of service of Air Traffic Control Officers (into which a committee is now enquiring) and notes the protests which are reaching the Institution from professional and technical staff in the Ministry of Public Building and Works. These pro-

tests are aimed at the excessively autocratic nature of the new organization, which appears to embody the worst features of the old Ministry of Works organization. Professional officers in the new Ministry complain that administrative control now limits the freedom they formerly possessed in exercise of technical judgment in discharging their duties, while the overhead expenses of the Department are significantly greater than those of the Works Department in the old Service Ministries. The Institution also directs attention to the Treasury's resistance to the proposal that professionally qualified officers should be known simply by the title of their profession—architect, engineer, etc., instead of by the terms, 'basic' and 'main', which are now meaningless inside as well as outside the Civil Service; for these terms the Institution suggests the substitution of the terms 'senior' and 'principal', respectively.

Commonwealth Scholarship Plan

THE fourth annual report of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan closely follows the pattern of previous reports and again includes a special section on Commonwealth visiting fellowships and other senior awards under the Plan (Pp. 76. London: H.M.S.O., 1964. 5s.). Five senior Fellows from Britain took up awards in New Zealand, Australia, India (2) and Canada. Four from Australia visited Britain (2), Canada and India; two from New Zealand took up prestige fellowships in Britain, one from India in Canada, and one visitor's award from Southern Rhodesia enabled an adviser to visit Australia. Awards held in the first terms of the academic year increased from 820 in 1962-63 to 924 in 1963-64. Britain has now reached her target figure and both Canada and Australia have nearly achieved theirs. Jamaica offered her first scholarship, tenable at the University of the West Indies, and, with one exception, all the countries which promised to institute awards have now done so. Of the 390 scholarships taken up during the year, 219 were awarded by Britain, 84 by Canada, 26 by Australia, 22 by India and 13 by the West Indies. Although the Plan appears to be working effectively and making a real contribution to the educational needs of the Commonwealth, there are some difficulties. Perhaps