

## Plant Physiology at the University of Sussex:

Prof. J. F. Sutcliffe

PROF. J. F. SUTCLIFFE, who has been appointed professor of plant physiology in the School of Biological Sciences in the University of Sussex, is at present professor of botany at King's College, University of London. Prof. Sutcliffe obtained first-class honours in botany in the University of Leeds in 1947, after his undergraduate career had been interrupted by war service in the Fleet Air Arm. His interests in the solute relationships of plants became evident in the work that he did for his doctorate on the effects of sugar and potassium on the extension growth of roots. Since his move to King's as an assistant lecturer in 1949, he has made the problems of salt uptake his own particular field, in which he is now established as a world authority. He has made many valuable and fundamental contributions to our knowledge of the mechanism of ion uptake, and has written a text-book for university students which is the best of its kind yet to appear. The calibre of his work is shown by the early award of the D.Sc. of the University of London in 1960. He spent one year in the laboratory of Prof. F. C. Steward at the University of Cornell as Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, and it was there that he turned his attention particularly to the coupling of salt uptake with protein metabolism. Prof. Sutcliffe has always been in the forefront of biological society activities. He has been the botanical secretary of the Society of Experimental Biology since 1960, and has served on the Membership Committee of the Institute of Biology since 1961. He was recorder of the Cell Physiology Section at the tenth International Botanical Congress at Edinburgh in August last. He is no narrow physiologist; his wide knowledge and interest in all aspects of plant biology are evident from the fact that he has been president of the Croydon Natural History Society since 1963. In addition to his reputation as a scientist, Prof. Sutcliffe will bring to Sussex a vigour and enthusiasm for both teaching and research which will be an invaluable asset to a new University, particularly in the early days of its development.

## Inorganic Chemistry at Queen Mary College, University of London:

Prof. D. C. Bradley

PROF. D. C. BRADLEY, senior professor of chemistry at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, has been appointed as from January 1, 1965, to the chair of inorganic chemistry left vacant by the resignation of Prof. J. Chatt, who has taken a post at the University of Sussex. Prof. Bradley graduated at Birkbeck College, London, where he started research with the late Prof. W. Wardlaw, and was successively lecture demonstrator, assistant lecturer and lecturer. In 1959 he was invited to his present post in Canada, where his responsibilities for the teaching of inorganic chemistry have included the reorganization of courses for the B.Sc. honours degree and the initiation of graduate courses for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. He has also taken part in general university administration and served on a committee of the Defence Research Board, Department of National Defence, Ottawa. Prof. Bradley's research has developed from his original work on zirconium alkoxides into a general study, by both synthetic and structural methods, of the alkoxides of a wide range of metals. Recently it has been extended to the dialkylamino derivatives of metals of groups IV, V and VI and to inorganic polymers containing transition metal atoms bonded to oxygen, sulphur, nitrogen or phosphorus. It is described in more than eighty scientific papers and many review articles, which have won him international recognition in his chosen field. He returns to the University of London at a time when long-awaited plans for the modernization and expansion of facilities for chemistry are beginning to materialize, and he should find considerable scope in the

new buildings now being constructed at Queen Mary College.

## The Colwyn Medal

THE Colwyn Medal for 1964 is to be awarded to Dr. G. F. Bloomfield, international co-ordinator of Technical Advisory Service, Malayan Rubber Fund Board. The Medal, given by the late Lord Colwyn, a former president of the Institution of the Rubber Industry, is awarded yearly for services of a scientific or technical nature with a bearing on the rubber industry. Dr. Bloomfield began his career in rubber with the Rubber Growers' Association in 1932. After the War he was attached to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya for some years, assisting in the introduction of the latest research techniques and in the Institute's rehabilitation after the Japanese occupation. He has published many contributions to the subject of rubber research and technology.

## Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

THE Indian Institute of Technology at Delhi is the fifth of its kind to be set up in India with foreign aid. Already there is an Institute at Kharagpur which has been mainly equipped by American aid, one at Bombay which has been sponsored by the U.S.S.R., another at Madras sponsored by West Germany, and a fourth at Kanpur which is being equipped by the United States. When it became known six years ago that India was contemplating a College of Engineering and Technology at New Delhi, it was felt that here was an opportunity for H.M. Government to co-operate with British industry in a gesture which would be of long-term advantage to India and Great Britain. In order to meet the cost of British manufactured equipment required by the College, an appeal was launched by Sir Hugh Beaver, the then president of the Federation of British Industries, to which British industry responded with donations totalling more than £260,000. H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh laid the foundation stone in January 1959, and the College opened in 1961 with an initial intake of 150 students. In 1963 it was granted independence to confer its own degrees and was renamed the Indian Institute of Technology. It aims eventually to provide five-year residential courses for 1,250 undergraduates and research facilities for 300 postgraduates. At present the teaching staff includes eight British professors and further appointments from the United Kingdom will be made next year. With the attainment of Institute status the equipment programme has been extended. In response to a second appeal launched in December 1963 by Sir Cyril Harrison, chairman of the sponsors and immediate past-president of the Federation, contributions and promises of further support from British industry now exceed £55,000 and it is hoped that an additional £95,000 will be raised by the end of March 1965. (See also *Nature*, 200, 735; 1963.)

## Loans of Scientific Apparatus to Schools

DAME KATHLEEN LONSDALE, professor of chemistry in University College, London, writes: "The Chemistry Department of University College, London, recently made it known, through the Association for Science Education, that certain surplus apparatus, which included potentiometers, resistance boxes, galvanometers and pH meters, could be applied for by school science teachers and would be made available on indefinite loan. The result was that nearly ninety applications were received from all over Great Britain, from grammar, technical, secondary modern and independent schools, and a great many teachers had to be disappointed. It seems probable that other colleges and industrial research departments may have, stored away in cupboards, apparatus that they would not like to destroy and cannot continue to store, but for which they have no immediately foreseeable use. The Association for Science Education is willing to act as a clearing house for offers of such apparatus, which