# NEWS and VIEWS

## The Editor of *NATURE*

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death, on November 15, of L. J. F. Brimble, editor of *Nature*.

Jack Brimble and *Nature* have been so closely associated for so many years that we find it impossible as we now go to press to assess the loss to the journal and to the world of science.

An appreciation will appear next week.

## The National Physical Laboratory: Sir Gordon Sutherland, F.R.S.

At the end of October 1964 Sir Gordon Sutherland resigned from the directorship of the National Physical Laboratory to become Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He joined the Laboratory in 1956 from the University of Michigan, where he had been professor of physics and director of the Biophysics Research Centre since 1949. His earlier work at Cambridge had brought him recognition as a leading authority on infra-red spectroscopy. As director of the National Physical Laboratory, Sir Gordon was responsible for many important developments in the work and facilities of the Laboratory. In 1958 he reorganized part of its divisional structure on a more functional basis, concentrating the metrological activities into the Applied Physics, Light and Standards Divisions and creating the Basic Physics Division to pioneer developments in molecular physics which were likely to have potential importance to industry. New buildings and facilities for the Ship Division were opened at Feltham by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1959, a new laboratory with special equipment for the mechanical working of refractory metals was provided for the Metallurgy Division in 1963, and the Basic Physics and Autonomics Divisions occupied new buildings in 1964. Glazebrook Hall, a former wind-tunnel laboratory reconstructed as a conference and social centre with catering facilities for the staff and visitors and including a lecture theatre seating 380, was opened in 1961; its name commemorates the first director of the Laboratory. A Van de Graaf accelerator and a *KDF* 9 computer, respectively, were added to the facilities of the Applied Physics and Mathematics Divisions, and new equipment was installed for the work of the Aerodynamics Division on supersonic flight and industrial aerodynamics. During the period under review the total staff increased from 1,080 to 1,460, and the number of scientific officers, including Research Fellows, rose from 155 to 255. Sir Gordon was especially interested and successful in fostering contacts with the universities which were of mutual benefit, leading on one hand, for example, to better success in the recruitment of highly qualified graduates to the National Physical Laboratory, and, on the other, to a considerable expansion in the number and value of research contracts placed by the Laboratory with universities. The announcement of the award of his knighthood was made in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 1960.

## Dr. J. V. Dunworth, C.B.E.

Dr. J. V. Dunworth has been appointed director of the National Physical Laboratory in succession to Sir Gordon Sutherland. Dr. Dunworth was born in Manchester and educated at Manchester Grammar School and Clare College, Cambridge, where he graduated with first-class honours in 1937. In the same year he joined Lord Rutherford's nuclear physics research team at the Cavendish Laboratory, and was later elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. During the Second World War he was a member of Sir John Cockcroft's team working on radar, and in 1944 he was seconded to the National Research Council of Canada, again with Sir John Cockcroft, to work on the development of atomic energy. At the end of the War, Dr. Dunworth returned to the University of Cambridge as a lecturer in physics. In 1947 he became a member of the staff of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, where in due course he became head of the Reactor Division. He was alternate United Kingdom member on the Organizing Committee of the United Nations Atoms for Peace Conferences held in Geneva in 1955 and 1958. Dr. Dunworth was appointed deputy director of the National Physical Laboratory in 1962 and has been acting as director since the resignation of Sir Gordon Sutherland in 1964. During 1965 he was responsible for implementing the decision to merge the National Chemical Laboratory into the National Physical Laboratory. He is president of the British Nuclear Energy Society, a member of the Council of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, and a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He was elected a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 1960. Dr. Dunworth was appointed a C.B.E. in 1955.

It has also been decided by the Ministry of Technology to replace the Executive Committee of the National Physical Laboratory by a smaller Steering Committee. The first chairman of the new Committee will be Prof. B. H. Flowers, Langworthy professor of physics in the University of Manchester.

## Electronic Engineering in the University of Hull: Prof. D. A. Bell

In appointing Prof. D. A. Bell to the newly established chair of electronic engineering, the University of Hull has added to its staff an engineer of international reputation with a wide and varied range of interests. Prior to his appointment, Prof. Bell was visiting professor of telecommunications at McGill University. Prof. Bell is perhaps best known for his work on noise, and his many contributions to the investigation of this subject have crystallized in his book, *Electrical Noise*. His knowledge of communications is also shown by many papers, and the titles of his other books—*Information Theory and its Engineering Applications*, *Statistical Methods in Electrical Engineering* and *Intelligent Machines*—show not only some of his interests, but also his constant endeavour to relate theoretical developments to engineering realities and his deep concern with the social consequences of engineering progress. He has always been anxious to work and study with social scientists and has long argued in favour of the inclusion of social science in the engineering curriculum. But his interest in education has not been limited to the universities, nor his knowledge of science to the physical sciences and the technologies based on them. Indeed, his outstanding characteristic is a scientific curiosity, to satisfy which he has worked at many problems in many fields and taken part in many controversies. His new colleagues will find him stimulating and vigorous and can rely on him not only to lead in his special field, but also to take an active part in the whole life of the University.

## A. Harden (1865–1940)

Born in Manchester on October 12 a century ago, Arthur Harden was first noted as an inspired lecturer and demonstrator at Owen's College, where he collaborated with Henry Roscoe on the writing of text-books. Harden graduated at Erlangen in 1888, spent nine years at