

News and Views

Prof. I. M. Heilbron, F.R.S.

PROF. I. M. HEILBRON, whose appointment to the chair of organic chemistry in the University of London (Imperial College) has just been announced, is a man of many activities, that of a research director and teacher of organic chemistry being exceptionally prominent. Prior to the Great War, he held a lieutenancy in the A.S.C., 52nd Division, and proceeded to G.H.Q., Salonika in 1917. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel and assistant director of supplies, G.H.O., Salonika in 1918, and was given the D.S.O. and mentioned three times in despatches. It is, however, as a research chemist rather than as a soldier that he will be best recognized. His field, for many years past, has been in the sterol group and in matters generally relating to calciferol and the group which contains the important vitamin D; he has instituted a series of experiments on the synthesis of vitamin A and has progressed definitely towards a successful conclusion of this problem. He has also covered a wide field in other directions, particularly in connexion with the Algæ and carotenoid pigments. Since 1933, he has been able to give full scope to his genius and has made many important discoveries by the help of the large research school which he has gathered together. He was lecturer in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, from 1919 until 1920; Heath Harrison professor of organic chemistry in the University of Liverpool in 1922-33, and thereafter professor of organic chemistry in the University of Manchester, succeeding Prof. A. Lapworth in the Sir Samuel Hoare chair in 1935.

Dr. J. S. Turner

DR. J. S. TURNER, senior demonstrator in botany in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of botany in the University of Melbourne, in succession to the late Prof. A. J. Ewart. From the Sheffield Central Secondary School, Dr. Turner went up to Cambridge in 1927 as a scholar of Selwyn College, and after obtaining first classes in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos commenced research on plant respiration under Dr. F. F. Blackman in 1930. He was afterwards elected, successively, to the Frank Smart and Allen studentships in the University, and was awarded the Gedge prize for an essay on respiration in plants. He was appointed University demonstrator in 1934, and since 1936 has been in charge of the large practical classes for Part 1 of the Tripos in the Cambridge Botany School. His main research interest has been in plant physiology, especially in the relationship between respiration and fermentation in yeast and in the tissues of the higher plants. At present, he is engaged on a study of photosynthesis and respiration in aquatic plants.

He is also much interested in ecology, and in association with Dr. H. Godwin has contributed substantially to the elucidation of the plant communities of Wicken Fen and the Norfolk Broads. In 1936 he organized a party of research workers to investigate the natural oakwoods of the Killarney district, and in other ways also he has been most successful in stimulating students to work in the field. At Melbourne, Dr. Turner will have a much wider sphere of work; with his enthusiasm as a teacher, and a happy combination of interest in laboratory and field experimentation, he assumes this important professorship with every augury of success.

Dr. Willis Jackson

DR. WILLIS JACKSON has been appointed to succeed Prof. Robert Beattie, who retires in September from the Edward Stocks Massey chair of electro-technics in the University of Manchester, which he has occupied since 1912. Prof. Beattie has been associated with the University since 1896. Dr. Jackson was educated at Burnley Grammar School and the University of Manchester, where he graduated with first-class honours in 1925, and was the recipient of various prizes and scholarships. He has held the posts of lecturer in electrical engineering at Bradford Technical College and the Manchester College of Technology, and of lecturer in engineering science in the University of Oxford. Since 1936, he has been research engineer to the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., and lecturer and tutor at the Board of Education Summer School for Engineering Teachers in Technical Colleges. His research work has been mainly devoted to high-frequency measurements and to the properties of insulating materials, and has appeared in numerous papers published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, the *Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers*, the *Philosophical Magazine* and other journals.

Prof. Alexander Low

THE Court of the University of Aberdeen has accepted the resignation of Prof. Alexander Low, regius professor of anatomy in the University, to take effect on September 30. Prof. Low has occupied the chair since 1925, when he succeeded Prof. Robert Reid, whose assistant he had been for many years. Born in 1868, he was educated at the Aberdeen Grammar School and in the University of Aberdeen, afterwards studying at Freiburg, Vienna and Zurich. His association with Aberdeen as student and teacher covers a period of more than fifty-two years. In his professional studies, Prof. Low has specialized in anthropology and embryology, and has contributed a considerable number of papers to the journals of learned societies in anatomy, anthropology and