

His earliest published account of these experiments was read at a meeting of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers at Johannesburg on December 16, 1921. His full statement and his explanation of the effects were given in his Friday evening discourse at the Royal Institution on May 18, 1923.

For many years, Mordey was a member of the Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and being very sociable he used to stay to many of the Council dinners. His criticisms of the papers read were frank, but his remarks were often very helpful. He was a member of the Athenæum and of the Alpine Club. He loved to talk about mountaineering in Switzerland and climbing the snow-clad hills of Scotland in winter time to the astonishment of resident farmers. The profession and the industry have greatly benefited by his work.

Mordey was fond of good music and was a member of the Bach choir for many years. The early death of his first wife leaving him an only daughter was a great blow. His daughter married Major E. O. Henrici, but after having a family she died comparatively young. Another blow to him was the death of his partner Dawbarn. He has left many friends who will sadly miss him.

A. R.

THE death has recently occurred of Dr. Ragnar Rydberg, lecturer in physics in the University of Stockholm, at the early age of thirty-six years. Dr. Rydberg's scientific career was mainly devoted to the field of band spectroscopy, from which his beautiful methods of graphical constructions based on extensive spectroscopic data were developed. His dissertation: "Über Neubildung und Zerfall zweiatomiger Moleküle" (Stockholm, 1934), also included valuable discussions on problems regarding pre-dissociation phenomena in discharges under different conditions.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. B. T. Galloway, pathologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on June 13, aged seventy-four years.

Dr. A. E. H. Tutton, F.R.S., formerly H.M. Inspector of Schools (Technological Branch), Board of Education, and a leading authority on chemical and physical crystallography, on July 14, aged seventy-three years.

News and Views

Prof. M. N. Saha, F.R.S.

AFTER nearly fifteen years of service in the University of Allahabad, Prof. M. N. Saha is returning to his Alma Mater, the University of Calcutta, as Palit professor of physics. The first occupant of this chair, the gift of a rich Calcutta lawyer to the University, was Sir C. V. Raman (1918-32), and he was succeeded in 1932 by Prof. D. M. Bose (1932-37), who is now director of the Bose Research Institute founded by his uncle, the late Sir J. C. Bose. Prof. Saha graduated from the University of Calcutta in 1915 in applied mathematics, and in 1917 became lecturer in physics in the newly founded University College of Science. Between 1917 and 1921, he published a number of papers in the *Philosophical Magazine* and other journals on the application of the special theory of relativity to electrodynamics, on selective radiation pressure and its application to astrophysics, and the theory of thermal ionization of elements. The grant of a foreign scholarship by the University of Calcutta enabled him to visit England in 1920-21, and to work in the laboratory of Prof. A. Fowler at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. He was thus enabled to give the finishing touches to his paper "On the Physical Theory of Stellar Spectra" which was published by the Royal Society in 1921, and is now regarded as a work of highest importance in astrophysics. When, two years later, the University of Allahabad was just then passing from an examining to a teaching university, Saha accepted the chair of physics there and was called upon to frame the courses of teaching, organize the laboratory, and initiate research

work. He succeeded in creating a fine school of teaching and research under great handicaps and in infecting his colleagues with enthusiasm, resulting in important contributions to knowledge. Students trained by him have already achieved great distinction, among them being Prof. D. S. Kothari (Delhi) and Dr. R. C. Mozumdar in astrophysics; Dr. N. K. Sur in meteorology, Dr. G. R. Toshniwal in ionospheric research, and Dr. P. K. Kiehlu (Lahore) in spectroscopy.

BESIDES research and teaching, Prof. Saha has taken a leading part in the organization of scientific life in India. In 1931, he was instrumental in founding an Academy of Sciences for the Provinces of Agra and Oudh. In his presidential address to the Indian Science Congress in 1934, he advocated the establishment of a National Academy of Sciences for India on the lines of the Royal Society of London. This led to the foundation of the National Institute of Sciences (composed of 150 senior scientific workers in India) at Calcutta, of which Sir Lewis Fermor was the first president. In 1937, Saha succeeded Sir H. Couchmann, the surveyor general, as president of the Institute and was able to obtain a grant for it from the Central Government. In 1935 he founded the journal *Science and Culture* with the view of educating his countrymen about the relations of science to national life in India. Through its editorials and articles, he has been advocating that large-scale industrialization is the only solution of India's problems of poverty, unemployment and defence, and has directed the attention of the public to the