

Born in Boston on January 2, 1889, Prof. Adams is a graduate of Harvard University, where he received the A.B. degree in 1909, the A.M. in 1910 and the Ph.D. in 1912. He later received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, North-western University and the University of Rochester. He went abroad to study at the University of Berlin and at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute during 1912-13. From 1913 to 1915 he was an instructor in organic chemistry at Harvard and at Radcliffe College. He joined the faculty of the University of Illinois as assistant professor in 1916, becoming a professor in 1919 and head of the chemistry department in 1926. He was a member of President Roosevelt's Science Advisory Board in 1934-35, and in World War II he served in Washington with the National Defense Research Committee. Prof. Adams is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was chairman of Section C of the Association in 1927. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and an honorary fellow of the Chemical Society of London. He has been a member of the Council and chairman of the Chemistry Section of the National Academy of Sciences, and a member of the fellowship board of the National Research Council. Besides serving the American Chemical Society as president and chairman of the Board of Directors, he was a director during 1931-36 and 1940-43, and a councillor-at-large during 1923-29.

Eli Lilly and Company Prize

DR. JOHN D. FERRY, assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, who developed valuable surgical products from blood plasma during the War, has been given the Eli Lilly and Company Prize of 1,000 dollars awarded by the American Chemical Society for "versatile and incisive studies on the chemistry, especially the physical chemistry, of large molecules". Besides doing war-time research on blood plasma in the Department of Physical Chemistry at the Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ferry served on a special advisory panel of the Army Quartermaster Corps on the preparation and use of plastics and films from high polymers. Dr. Ferry was born at Dawson, British Columbia, on May 4, 1912, and graduated from Stanford University; during 1932-34 he worked at the National Institute for Medical Research in London. His early work was upon the size of viruses as estimated by their passage through membranes. Studies of polyisobutylene and polystyrene and of rubber followed, leading to an interest into the properties of large protein molecules and of the mechanical properties of their gels. A photo-elastic method for the study of elasticity and rigidity of gels over a wide range of frequencies has contributed greatly to our understanding on one hand of such systems as polystyrene-xylene; on the other, of the gelation of gelatin and the clotting of blood. His knowledge of proteins in the solid state has led during the War to the production, from the proteins concerned with the natural clotting process, of fibrinogen plastic and fibrin tubes and films. Fibrin film has found acceptance in neuro-surgery as a dural substitute and is now being applied to other surgical uses. Prepared entirely from fractions of human plasma, these products approach those that occur in Nature in their physical properties, in that they do not lead to foreign body reactions, and in their ultimate fate in the body.

Prof. P. van Oye

PROF. DR. P. VAN OYE, the leading Belgian hydrobiologist, was sixty on August 24, an event which has been duly celebrated by his numerous friends and followers; other festivities, of a more official character, are to follow shortly. Prof. van Oye can look back on more than thirty years of splendid biological work, including for a great part studies on plankton of many countries, in most cases the result of personal exhaustive and exhausting field-work; in this last respect, he most certainly can compete with the keenest of his younger followers. He wrote numerous and important papers on Desmids (on which he is one of the world's leading authorities), Rotators, Rhizopods, etc.; he is the discoverer of the periodical evolution of the plankton in tropical regions, and, together with Apsteins, of the rule on the variation of plankton-facies. Another very important discovery of his is the constancy of the pH in a given aquatic biotope. Prof. van Oye spent several years in Indonesia and the Belgian Congo, and shortly before the War visited Iceland. The Biogeographical Institute, University of Ghent, has done and is doing useful work under his leadership. The patriotic attitude of Prof. van Oye under the occupation caused the Germans to relieve him of his post and even to imprison him for some weeks.

New European Scientific Periodicals

THE revival of scientific thought in Europe has been signalled by the reappearance of familiar journals which were suppressed during the German occupation, and by the publication of new journals. *La Nature* and *Revue générale des sciences* in France were swift to recover, and they were joined a few months ago by the new journal *Atomes*. A little more than a year ago, *Experientia*, described as a "monthly journal of pure and applied science", under the direction of A. v. Muralt, L. Ruzicka and J. Weigle, with Dr. H. Mislin as editor, was published by Verlag Birkhäuser AG. of Basle. The general language used is German; but announcements are printed in German, French, Italian and English. The contents consist of general illustrated articles (in one of the languages mentioned), followed by "brief reports" of current work corresponding to the "Letters to the Editors" in *Nature*, most of which have summaries in a language other than that of the 'report' itself, and book reviews, etc. The published price is 2 Swiss francs each issue plus postage. From Germany comes *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*, published by Dieterich'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Wiesbaden, by authority of the Military Government. This appeared in January of this year, under the direction of A. Sommerfeld, K. Clusius and A. Kühn, and is also a monthly journal. It contains short original articles, preliminary announcements of investigations, reviews of recent work, and news; the whole is in German.

Freedom of Intellectual Liberty

In our age the idea of intellectual liberty is under attack from two directions. On one hand, there are its theoretical enemies, the apologists of totalitarianism; and on the other, its immediate practical enemies, monopoly and bureaucracy ("The Prevention of Literature." By George Orwell. (Polemical No. 2.) London: Rodney Phillips and Co., 1946. 2s. 6d.). The independence of the writer and the artist are being eaten away by vague economic forces and also