NEWS and VIEWS

Physiology at University College, Dundee: Prof. G. H. Bell

DR. GEORGE HOWARD BELL, who has been appointed to the chair of physiology in University College, Dundee, is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, where he had a distinguished career in both the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine, gaining the M.B. degree with honours in 1930 and, later, the higher degree of M.D., also with honours. For the thesis which he presented for the latter degree he was awarded a Bellahouston Gold Medal. After graduation, Dr. Bell spent a period in clinical appointments before entering upon an academic career in physiology, and he has always maintained a close interest in clinical problems. He gave a considerable amount of voluntary hospital service during the War. A year ago he was elected a fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Prof. Bell's career as a physiologist began with his appointment as an assistant in the Glasgow University Institute of Physiology. This assistantship was followed by a lectureship at the University of Bristol, after which he returned to Glasgow as senior lecturer in physiology. His research interests have been concerned in the main with problems in the physiology of parturition and of reproduction in general; with the significance of capillary fragility tests; and, most recently, with the effect of various factors on the physical strength of bone. Many of these studies are notable for, and indeed have depended for their success upon, the development of new techniques and on the design and construction of novel apparatus; and quite apart from strictly physiological research, Dr. Bell has issued many valuable papers on new and improved methods and apparatus, and on the application of nomograms to physiological and clinical calculations. His practical text-book on experimental physiology has gained acceptance not only in Glasgow but also in several other medical schools.

Physical Chemistry at Durham: Prof. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones

PROF. W. F. K. WYNNE-JONES, professor of chemistry at University College, Dundee, University of St. Andrews, has been appointed to the chair of physical chemistry at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, University of Durham, in succession to Prof. H. L. Riley (see *Nature*, Dec. 14, 1946, p. 867). Prof. Wynne-Jones is a D.Sc. of the University of Wales, having begun his academic career at University College, Aberystwyth; later he went to Oxford. He continued his chemical studies with Brönsted at Copenhagen, and spent some time with H. S. Taylor at Princeton University as a Leverhulme scholar. After having held appointments in the Universities of Bristol and Reading, he went, in 1938, to Dundee. During 1942–44, he took over the duties of head of the Chemistry Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough; and during the War he also supervised electro-chemical research work, which was carried out at University College, Dundee, for the Ministry of Supply. Prof. Wynne-Jones' main research work has been in the field of chemical kinetics. He has worked on acid-base catalytic reactions in solution, and on electrolytic dissociation processes. His work also includes studies in the role of solvent in reaction kinetic processes, and on the effect of isotope exchange on reaction-rates, particularly the exchange of deuterium and hydrogen.

American Awards for British Men of Science

DR. H. ROXBEE COX, director of the National Gas Turbine Establishment and chairman and managing director of Power Jets (Research and Development), Ltd., has been awarded the American Medal of Honour with Silver Palm for "meritorious service to the Government of the United States from September 1941 to September 1945, in connection with the development of turbo-jet and turbine aircraft engines. Dr. Roxbee Cox contributed to a great extent to the successful prosecution of this major war project by establishing and effectively administering an efficient system of technical collaboration between the British and U.S. Governments."

Dr. E. Talbot Paris, principal director of scientific research (defence) in the Ministry of Supply, has been awarded the American Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm for "meritorious service during the period of action in the field of scientific research development. As a physicist in the Ministry of Supply, he was responsible for the development of radar communications and other electronic equipment required for the ground forces of the British Army. He took an active part in establishing the interchange of scientific information with American laboratories, contributing substantially to the development of highly technical equipment."

Exhibition at the National Gallery

ON October 8 the National Gallery is re-opening a suite of six rooms, the first to be completely redecorated since the War. Many of the pictures to be shown in these have been re-framed. Nearly all will be shown without glass; though they will be protected by low barriers of silk cord. Fluorescent lighting is being installed in all the rooms. In one of them the walls will be covered with loose hangings of damask. These are all experiments towards the method of exhibition to be adopted in another suite of rooms, now half derelict, which is to be completely remodelled and air-conditioned. The pictures hung in five of the redecorated rooms will be the seventy which have been cleaned during the last ten years. In order of cleaning, they will begin and end with the two portraits of King Philip IV by Velázquez. In date they will range from the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries. The exhibition will show the cleaned pictures together for the first time, on clean backgrounds. Examined under these conditions, and with the help of a few demonstration pictures, 120 comparative photographs, X-radiographs, etc., and a catalogue giving the relevant facts, it will be possible to assess the correspondence on the subject which has appeared in the Press during recent months.

South African Science

THE first issue of the newly established monthly journal, *South African Science* (*Suid-Afrikaanse Wetenskap*), has just been published (Vol. 1, No. 1, August 1947). This is the bulletin of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science and is available free to members, but may be obtained also by non-members (15*s*. a year, including postage, Kelvin House, H/v Marshall and Hollard-straat, Johannesburg). The journal is similar to *Nature* in format and make up. There are two valuable main articles: "Scientific Research in South Africa", by Dr. B. F. J. Schonland, president of the South African Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and "The World View of the Physicist", by Prof.