

The son of a merchant, Elsberg was born on August 24, 1871, in New York City—the scene of his life's work. Educated at the College of the City of New York, he graduated B.A. in 1890, and three years later took the M.D. at the College of Physicians and Surgeons ('P. and S.') of Columbia University. After serving as interne at the Mount Sinai and Sloane Hospitals, he worked under von Mikulicz-Radecki in Breslau, and on his return was appointed adjunct surgeon at the Mount Sinai. When in 1909 the Neurological Institute opened its doors at 149 East 67th Street, he was offered the post of chief of surgery, which he held until 1937. In 1929 the Institute moved to its present home (168th Street and Fort Washington Avenue) in the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Its history was told by Elsberg in 1944, in his fascinating and colourful "The Story of a Hospital", which contains a wealth of biographical and autobiographical material. He was editor of the *Bulletin of the Neurological Institute*, begun in 1931, the fifth volume of which was dedicated to him on his sixty-fifth birthday.

In 1917, at the request of the Surgeon-General, Elsberg organised the New York Neurosurgical School for Medical Officers of the American Army, of which he became military director.

His more important writings include "Experimental Investigation of the Treatment of Wounds of the Heart by Means of Suture of the Heart Muscle" (1898), which was translated into many languages, and the classic "Surgical Diseases of the Spinal Cord, Membranes, and Nerve Roots" (1941), which was a revised edition of "Diseases of the Spinal Cord" (1916) and of "Tumors of the Spinal Cord" (1925).

Many honours came Elsberg's way: he was president of the American Neurological Association and of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, and his name is associated with the operation of drainage in syringomyelitis (also known as Pusep's operation). An inspiring teacher—he was very popular as professor of neurological surgery at 'P. and S.' (1921-37)—he was distinguished and youthful in appearance,

charming in manner, deeply cultured, and he radiated energy and enthusiasm.

W. R. BERT

Mr. J. S. Dow

MR. JOHN STEWART DOW died on August 12. He was born in 1881. After passing through a course in electrical engineering at the City and Guilds of London Engineering College he was for some years on the staff of the College and was later engaged on research work, chiefly on photometric problems.

His early association with Leon Gaster led to the first publication in 1908 of *The Illuminating Engineer*, on which he acted as assistant editor. Since 1928 he had been editor, the name of the journal having been changed to *Light and Lighting* in 1936.

Mr. Dow was even better known for his unbroken connexion with the Illuminating Engineering Society since its foundation in 1909 when he was honorary assistant secretary. In 1928 he became honorary secretary, a position he held until he became president in 1946. After his term of office as president, he continued to serve on the Council of the Society, and during the whole thirty-nine years he was present at every Council meeting. He was a fellow of the Society, and in 1942 was elected an honorary life member, an honour which was shared only by the late Mr. A. P. Trotter.

He was a member of the Departmental Committee on Factory Lighting and of the Illumination Research Committee, as well as of the Lighting Committee of the Building Research Board and numerous other committees concerned with lighting.

He was honorary secretary of the Association of Public Lighting Engineers from 1931 until the end of 1935.

His life's work for the Illuminating Engineering Society cannot be over-valued. He always avoided publicity; but it is due to his work and foresight that the Society has reached its present position. He will be deeply mourned by all associated with lighting matters.

NEWS and VIEWS

New British Association President:

Sir John Russell, O.B.E., F.R.S.

At the British Association meeting just held at Brighton under the presidency of Sir Henry Tizard, Sir John Russell was elected president for the 1949 meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Sir John has a world-wide reputation as an agricultural scientist. He joined the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in 1907, and succeeded the late Sir Daniel Hall as director in 1912. He retired in 1943, the year of Rothamsted's centenary. During his thirty-one years as director, there was a remarkable expansion of Rothamsted's activities. Various new departments were added, new buildings were erected, and the finest agricultural library in Great Britain, if not in the world, was built up. He also raised the necessary funds for the purchase of the Rothamsted Farm and the Manor House. Sir John has made outstanding contributions to soil science and is the author of several standard works on that subject. He is a former president of the International Society of Soil Science, a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and a member of numerous

other academies. Among the distinctions he has received are the Messel Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry and the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts. During the Second World War he was adviser to the Soviet Relations Division of the Ministry of Information and chairman of the Agriculture Sub-Committee of U.N.R.R.A.

Sir John is the first agricultural scientist to become president of the British Association. He has regularly attended the meetings for more than forty years and was the first recorder of agriculture when that subject was a sub-section of botany. Agriculture was made an independent Section in 1912 and Sir John was president of it in 1916 at Newcastle, in 1924 at Toronto and, again, at the centenary meeting in London in 1931. He has served several periods as a member of Council and has been chairman of various committees and a president of the Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies. Sir John has travelled widely and has made a special study of agriculture in the U.S.S.R. and Poland. He is about to visit Poland again to take part in the jubilee celebrations of the Academy

of Arts and Sciences and will represent the British Association there. He will also give lectures and visit agricultural research institutions on behalf of the British Council.

British Association: Exhibition of Scientific Instruments

ONE of the many interesting features of the Brighton meeting of the British Association was a display of the latest scientific instruments, and particularly of electronic equipment, arranged by the Scientific Instruments Manufacturers Association of Great Britain in the Corn Exchange. The stands were well set out in the ample space available, so that visitors were not subjected to the crowding so often occurring at such exhibitions. In opening the exhibition on September 13, the president of Section A, Sir Lawrence Bragg, paid tribute to the enterprise of instrument manufacturers in organising the display at a time when they were actively engaged in participating in the British Exhibition in Copenhagen. He stressed the importance of accurate, and often very elaborate, instruments both in modern scientific research and in the industrial field. The research worker, he said, has outlived the days of home-made apparatus largely constructed of jam-jars and sealing-wax and has become more and more dependent upon the skill of the instrument maker; and it is necessary for the two to work hand in hand to secure progress. There was a time, and that not long ago, when the scientific world looked mainly to the United States and Germany for the most accurate instrument work, but to-day Great Britain can hold its own in every section of instrument making, and in many it leads the world; in this sphere, at least, Britain no longer fears foreign competition. On the following morning, the whole session of Section A was given up to a symposium on instrumentation and control, including industrial applications of electrical devices, opened by Sir Ewart Smith.

Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, Cambridge: Dr. G. H. S. Bushnell

FOLLOWING the resignation of Dr. T. T. Paterson, Dr. G. H. S. Bushnell has been appointed curator of the Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, Cambridge. Dr. Bushnell is the son of the Rev. D. G. S. Bushnell; he was educated at Wellington and Cambridge, taking his degree in 1925; recently (1947) he obtained the degree of Ph.D. In July 1926 he went to Ecuador as a geologist with Anglo-Ecuadorian Oilfields, Ltd., and remained there with intervals of leave until 1938. It was while working in Ecuador that archæology first attracted his attention, and he examined the southern part of the coastal plain, which up to then had never been studied. He also travelled in Peru, visiting Lima, the Cuzco region, etc., and began to write up the results of his investigations. During the War he held a commission in the Royal Engineers. While an important work is still in the press awaiting publication, there have been numerous articles from Dr. Bushnell's pen on such subjects as an archæological collection from Macas in Ecuador east of the Andes in Oran, and reviews, etc., in various learned journals. Dr. Bushnell is on the Councils of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Anthropological Institute. As a keen student of medieval archæology he has also been appointed vice-chairman of the Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. From every point of view Dr. Bushnell

should make an ideal curator, for he has considerable personal charm and can arouse enthusiasm in others.

Mathematics in King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne:

Dr. A. E. Green

ON the retirement of Prof. G. R. Goldsbrough, the chair of applied mathematics at King's College has been filled by the appointment of Dr. A. E. Green. Dr. Green obtained distinction at Cambridge in Part III of the Mathematical Tripos, was a Smith's Prizeman and research fellow of Jesus College. Since 1939 he has held the post of lecturer in mathematics at the Durham Colleges. Dr. Green's published work mainly covers the subjects of hydrodynamics and elasticity. In the former he has dealt with the production of small eddies from large ones, the gliding of a plate on a stream and the fluctuations of pressure in a turbulent fluid. In elasticity he has investigated the stability of thin twisted strips and corrugated plates, and numerous problems in the stress systems of æolotropic plates.

Dr. W. W. Rogosinski

THE chair of pure mathematics at King's College, vacated by Prof. A. C. Offord on his appointment to the chair at Birkbeck College, has been filled by the election of Dr. Werner W. Rogosinski. Dr. Rogosinski studied at the Universities of Breslau, Freiburg and Göttingen. At the last-named he proceeded to the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1921. He held the appointment of *Privatdozent* and later *Ausserordentliche Professor* at the University of Königsberg. In 1937 he came to Great Britain and did some teaching at Cambridge. Later he was appointed assistant in the Mathematics Department of the University of Aberdeen and in 1945 lecturer at King's College, University of Durham, where he was further raised to the status of reader in mathematical analysis in 1947. Dr. Rogosinski has written numerous papers on trigonometric series, Dirichlet's series and problems of complex analysis. He also published "Fouriersche Reihen" (Sammlung Schubert, 1930), and, with the late Prof. G. H. Hardy, the Cambridge Tract on "Fourier Series".

Nicolas Copernicus

IN an article in *The Times* of September 7 on "Poland's Northward Thrust", reference is made to Thorn (now Torun) Allenstein (renamed Olsztyn) and Frauenburg (now Frombork), the three places, in what was formerly East Prussia, in which Copernicus lived and died. To-day the district is a scene of destruction unparalleled elsewhere in Europe. Torun, where Copernicus was born, became Polish after the First World War, and Olsztyn, where he lived for a time, and Frombork, where he worked and died, are now also Polish. In Olsztyn castle, fortunately undamaged, one can see the chamber occupied by Copernicus when he was a canon and administrator of his uncle's diocese; and at Frombork, a small town completely ruined by the War, is the house he lived in and the cathedral in which he was buried. The Polish Government has given a sum of money towards restoring the old quarters of Copernicus in the cathedral close and his tower and observatory. Of the body of Copernicus, however, no trace can be found. "It appears," says the article, "that shortly after the Russians entered Frombork, unknown vandals raided the coffins of bishops and noblemen buried under the cathedral on the basis of a report that many of them wore gold and diamond rings."