Dr. U. R. Evans, reader in metallic corrosion, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his researches on metallic corrosion.

Prof. E. D. Hughes, professor of chemistry, University College, London, distinguished for his researches in the mechanism of the reactions of carbon compounds.

Prof. W. Q. Kennedy, professor of geology, University of Leeds, distinguished for his contributions to tectonic geology and petrogenesis.

Prof. W. B. R. King, Woodwardian professor of geology, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his researches on the Lower Palæozoic rocks and on Pleistocene deposits.

Sir Ben Lockspeiser, chief scientist, Ministry of Supply, distinguished for his contributions to the development of modern aircraft.

Dr. J. M. McNeill, naval architect, John Brown and Co., Ltd., Clydebank, distinguished for his contributions to naval architecture.

Dr. H. R. Marston, chief of the Division of Biochemistry and General Nutrition, Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (University of Adelaide, South Australia), distinguished for his researches on nutrition and wool-growth in merino sheep and on trace element-deficiency diseases in ruminants.

Prof. K. Mather, professor of genetics, University of Birmingham, distinguished for his contributions to genetics and particularly for his studies of polygenic inheritance.

Prof. P. B. Medawar, Mason professor of zoology and comparative anatomy, University of Birmingham, distinguished for his studies of growth processes and the phenomena associated with tissue transplantation.

Dr. W. T. J. Morgan, research worker, Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine and reader in biochemistry in the University of London, distinguished for his contributions to the chemistry of immunology and blood groups.

N. W. Pirie, head of the Biochemical Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, distinguished for his researches on the chemical and physical properties of plant viruses.

Prof. C. F. Powell, Melville Wills professor of physics, University of Bristol, distinguished for his contributions to experimental physics, especially for his work on the properties of mesons.

Dr. D. A. Scott, research member, Connaught Laboratories, University of Toronto, distinguished for his contributions to the chemistry of insulin, heparin and carbonic anhydrase.

Prof. Wilson Smith, professor of bacteriology, University College Hospital Medical School, London, distinguished for his researches on the virus of influenza and on the pathology of staphylococcal infections.

Dr. G. B. B. M. Sutherland, reader in spectroscopy, Department of Colloid Science, University of Cambridge, distinguished for his experimental researches on infra-red and Raman spectroscopy, especially of hydrocarbons.

Prof. O. G. Sutton, professor of mathematics and physics, Military College of Science, Shrivenham, distinguished for his researches in atmospheric turbulence and evaporation.

Prof. Meirion Thomas, professor of botany at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, distinguished for his researches in plant physiology, and particularly for his work on the breakdown of sugar in the plant.

Prof. J. M. Whittaker, professor of mathematics, University of Liverpool, distinguished for his researches in the theory of integral functions.

Prof. F. G. Young, professor of biochemistry, University College, London, distinguished for his studies of the role of the hormones of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland in carbohydrate metabolism.

NEWS and VIEWS

King's College, London: Prof. W. T. Gordon

Prof. W. T. Gordon retires at the end of the present session from the chair of geology, King's College, London. He joined the staff of the College as lecturer in charge of the then quite small Department of Geology in 1914. In 1921 he became professor of geology, a post held in the earlier days of the College by Charles Lyell, John Phillips, D. T. Ansted, James Tennant and Martin Duncan. It fell to Gordon to organise the expansion of the Department and its work which followed the First World War, and he also served as administrative head of the Department of Geography conducted jointly with the London School of Economics. Throughout his long years of service, Prof. Gordon has been a well-known and well-loved figure in his College and his University, taking a large part in the life and work of both. At the same time he has continued to prosecute his researches into the Scottish Lower Carboniferous flora, begun as a young man in Edinburgh. Not the least of his great services to his College arose from his abiding interest in mineralogy: the Department possesses by virtue of his efforts an unusually fine collection of well-crystallized minerals, and his own collection of gem stones has become justly famous to a long succession of students.

Dr. J. H. Taylor

Dr. J. H. Taylor, who succeeds Prof. Gordon as professor of geology at King's College, London, in September, was educated at Clifton College, Bristol, and was an undergraduate at King's College. As such he distinguished himself in every field, in scholarship, athletics and general service to the College. He obtained first-class honours in geology at the Final Examinations of the University of London, and, as the most distinguished man of his year in science at King's College, he was awarded the Jelf Medal, the most prized distinction to which a student can aspire. After a year's service on the staff of the Geological Department at King's College, he was elected to a Henry Fellowship at Harvard University, and while there he obtained the degree of A.M. Returning to Britain to join the Geological Survey of Great Britain, he continued his petrological researches into the rocks of the East Midlands, and particularly the sedimentary iron ores and associated rocks of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. He was, consequently, selected as a member of the party asked to study and report upon the mining methods in Germany used to work the Cretaceous iron ores of the Salzgitter-Ilsede region, and the Dogger ores of Bavaria, Württemberg and Baden. While a member

of the Geological Survey, Dr. Taylor continued lecturing work at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London, and has been a member of Council of that College for many years. It will be clear from these varied activities that Dr. Taylor is a man of personality and drive. He has had a wide experience in geological work in the class-room and in the field in Britain, America and on the Continent, and will bring a highly trained, versatile and well-balanced mind to the problems of university education in geology.

Engineering at the University of Leeds: Prof. D. G. Christopherson, O.B.E.

DR. D. G. CHRISTOPHERSON, whose appointment as professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Leeds, in succession to the late Prof. W. T. David, has been announced, was educated at Sherborne School and University College, Oxford, where he took first-class honours in engineering science in 1937. He held a Henry Fellowship at Harvard University during 1938–39, and was for several years a member of Sir Richard Southwell's research team developing 'relaxation methods'. He was part author of the first paper in which the application of these methods to partial differential equations was presented, and his thesis for the Ph.D. degree in 1941 dealt entirely with this important branch of the work. During the period 1941–45, he was a member of the scientific staff of the Research and Experiments Department, Ministry of Home Security, and was made an O.B.E. in 1945. Dr. Christopherson was appointed a University demonstrator in the Department of Engineering, Cambridge, in April 1945, and was elected a Fellow of Magdalene College. In 1946 he was promoted to lecturer and in 1947 he became bursar of Magdalene. Though Christopherson has contributed papers on vibrations and structural problems, his interests lie mainly in the region of applied mechanics, and particularly in the theory of lubrication.

Holweck Prize and Medal: Prof. L. F. Bates

DR. L. F. BATES, Lancashire–Spencer professor of physics in the University of Nottingham, has been awarded the Holweck Prize and Medal by the Société Française de Physique. The Holweck Prize was founded by the Physical Society as a memorial to Fernand Holweck, director of the Curie Laboratory of the Radium Institute in Paris, and to other French physicists who were killed by the Germans during the occupation. The Société Française de Physique founded the Holweck Medal in bronze for presentation to the prizewinner. The award is made annually, alternately to a French and to a British physicist, for distinguished work in experimental physics. Prof. Bates is a leading authority on experimental magnetism. His book "Modern Magnetism", which appeared in 1939, has achieved an international reputation, and a second revised and enlarged edition appeared last year. His original work in an experimental field known for its difficulty is distinguished by a technique which he has built up since 1924 entirely by independent effort. In particular, his work on the heat liberated in step-by-step magnetism in the hysteresis cycle has advanced knowledge in a field where progress has long been retarded by the experimental difficulties. His work on the changes of specific heat at the ferromagnetic Curie point and his investigations of other properties of ferromagnetic substances are outstanding. His investigations in magnetism constitute a solid body of successful achievement which commands attention and admiration both at home and abroad. Magnetism is a subject in which there is now much interest in France, as instanced by the work of Néel and his school, and Prof. Bates will be warmly welcomed when he delivers his lecture in Paris in the early summer.

University of Birmingham and the Midland Region

AMONG other topics dealt with by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham (Sir Raymond Priestley) in his report to the Court of Governors is that of the cordial relations between the University and the Midland region. During the period 1935–47 the University received £1,450,000 in benefactions, excluding further promises under seven-year covenants of about £700,000, a fine record for its friends and supporters; and in this respect it surpasses all universities except Oxford. Local government grants, too, have substantially increased, facts which are regarded by the Vice-Chancellor as a recognition of success and a token of confidence. A significant development has been the establishment of the Midland Advisory Council on Industrial Productivity, "an attempt to gear the new development in Engineering Production (made possible by the generous benefaction of Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Ltd.) to the regional productive drive". The Lucas chair in the principles of engineering production, of which Prof. T. U. Matthew is the first occupant, has as its object postgraduate teaching and research on engineering production and the principles of industrial management. This Advisory Council is intended to promote closer liaison between Midland industries and the University of Birmingham in order to improve standards of productivity. A further expression of the support of industry is the generous provision by Tube Investments, Ltd., of £1,500 per annum for seven years for the establishment of a research fellowship in engineering production. The first holder of this fellowship is Mr. Mansergh Shaw, senior lecturer in engineering in the University of Melbourne. To assist Prof. Matthew in developing the postgraduate courses, Mr. P. B. R. Gibson has been appointed as lecturer, and lectures in engineering economics for final-year mechanical and electrical engineering students have been arranged as introductory to the postgraduate courses. It is expected that postgraduate students will be, in the main, sent by industrial firms; they will be expected to have had considerable industrial experience and to possess the attributes essential for success in management.

Philosophical Society of the Sudan

A NATION is judged not only by its resources and productivity but also by its standard of scholarship and culture; and an indication of this may be estimated by its number and quality of learned societies. In company with the present-day awakening throughout Africa, the Sudan is, and has been, making great progress in the field of economic development and towards a larger measure of self-government. It is pleasant to report that learning is keeping pace with this development, and that the Philosophical Society of the Sudan, which was founded on February 2, 1946, is flourishing and setting a high standard. The *Proceedings* for 1946–47 record the activities of this Society for the first year of its existence. At the inaugural meeting seventy-five founder members were enrolled, and the officers and committee were elected. Soon after, at the first ordinary meeting, the president, Mr. A. J. Arkell, gave his address. After discoursing on archæological