

the Aerodynamics Department at the National Physical Laboratory, where he stayed for eight years. There, in collaboration with R. A. Frazer, and later A. R. Collar, he laid the foundations of aeroelasticity, treating the new subject of aeroplane flutter from both the theoretical and experimental aspects. When the Department of Aerodynamics was established at University College, Hull, in 1934, Duncan was asked to become its first head, and in 1938 he was made Wakefield professor in the College. He was building up what promised to be an important school of aeronautics at Hull when the Second World War broke out, and he went to the Royal Aircraft Establishment to help in the war effort. He was engaged in researches on aerodynamics and armaments and was for a time sent to Exeter to take charge of the Armaments Development Research Department there. At the end of the War he spent some time as chief scientist at Völkrode, studying the work which the Germans had carried out. Prof. Duncan joined the College of Aeronautics at its inception and has been responsible as professor of aerodynamics for building up the teaching methods and the experimental equipment in the Department. He is a member of the Aeronautical Research Council and chairman of its Aerodynamics Committee, besides serving on several other committees and sub-committees of this body. His main interests lie in aerodynamics and advanced dynamics, and his original work in these fields brought him the honour of election to the Royal Society in 1947. Apart from these special predilections, he has a very wide interest in general engineering, and experience of considerable variety, added to which he is a very able mathematician. His loss to the College of Aeronautics next year will be a severe one; but the University of Glasgow will gain a man of science and teacher of outstanding ability.

#### British Museum: Sir John Forsdyke, K.C.B.

PERMISSION has been granted by H.M. the King to Sir John Forsdyke to resign his appointment as director and principal librarian of the British Museum, as from March 31, 1950. He entered the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the Museum in 1907, and was appointed keeper in 1932, having served in the Royal Artillery in the First World War. He took an active part in the preparation of the first volume of the Catalogue of "Greek and Etruscan Vases", and in 1909 published a paper in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* which went far to determine the significance of the 'Minyan' fabric of pottery from prehistoric sites in central Greece. Under the leadership of Sir Arthur Evans, he excavated Minoan tombs near Knossos; and he gave to the British Academy a valuable lecture on Minoan art.

Appointed to the directorship of the British Museum in 1936, he became responsible for the planning and erection of the new Duveen Gallery for the Elgin Marbles. But the War made it necessary to place these and other principal collections in a place of security, and the bomb-damage to a section of the Library further diverted his energies. At the earliest possible moment, however, the new King Edward VII Gallery was devoted to a compendious but amazing sample of the Museum's treasures, including the recently acquired Saxon burial-find from Sutton Hoo. Outside the Museum, Sir John Forsdyke has been secretary of the Hellenic Society, and for a while editor of its *Journal*. He has also taken an active

interest in the Byzantine Research and Excavation Fund, and the British School of Archaeology at Athens. It is to be hoped that his retirement at no advanced age will enable him to devote himself both to these and similar administrative interests, and to the many aspects of classical archaeology with which he has been concerned in the Museum.

#### Physical Society: Rutherford Memorial Lecture

THE fourth Rutherford Memorial Lecture of the Physical Society will be given by Dr. Ernest Marsden on December 14, at 5 p.m., at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7. Dr. Marsden was formerly professor of physics at Victoria University College, Wellington, and until recently secretary of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; he is at present in London acting as scientific adviser to the High Commissioner of New Zealand and to the New Zealand Government. Dr. Marsden was closely associated with Rutherford in the experiments leading to the conception of the nuclear theory of atomic constitution and also in those leading to the demonstration of the disintegration of nitrogen by  $\alpha$ -particles; he has collected much information on the early family and student life of Lord Rutherford in New Zealand. His lecture will deal with some of these early memories and will show how Rutherford's inspiring personality influenced his research staff. A film will be shown entitled "Transformation of Elements", demonstrating the early experiments which led to the idea of the nuclear atom.

#### Sir Henry Savile, 1549-1622

NOVEMBER 30 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir Henry Savile, the founder of the Savilian professorships of geometry and astronomy at Oxford, the first of such chairs founded in the English universities. Born at Over Bradley, near Halifax, Yorks, he was educated at Brasenose and Merton Colleges, Oxford, and after gaining his degree read some public lectures on Euclid and Ptolemy. In 1578 he travelled abroad and on his return was made tutor in Greek to Queen Elizabeth. From 1585 onwards he was Warden of Merton College, and from 1596 also Provost of Eton College. A scholar and a patron of learning, he published some fine editions of ancient authors, wrote on various subjects, and, like his friend Thomas Bodley, was a generous benefactor of the University of Oxford. He died at Eton on February 19, 1622 and was buried there, a memorial being erected in Merton College chapel. His quater-centenary will be marked by lectures by Prof. H. W. Garrod, at Eton on November 27 and at Merton College on November 30. An article on p. 899 of this issue recalls some of the distinguished men who have held the Savilian chairs.

#### Portrait of Fox Talbot

AN appeal for funds for a portrait of William Henry Fox Talbot has been issued over the signatures of Sir Robert Robinson, president of the Royal Society, Lord Brabazon of Tara, president of the Royal Institution, and Mr. Percy W. Harris, president of the Royal Photographic Society. Fox Talbot's researches between 1834 and 1841 place him in the forefront of photographic pioneers, for, from the results of these scientific discoveries, all photographic technique has since developed. The home of the Talbot family for many centuries has been Lacock Abbey, in Wiltshire, and this was presented to the