

tinguished for his contributions to various aspects of scientific radio, including the interpretation of radio wave interaction and the elucidation of ionospheric variations.

Prof. R. A. MORTON, professor of biochemistry, University of Liverpool; distinguished for his studies on the chemistry and biochemistry of the fat-soluble vitamins.

Prof. R. J. PUMPHREY, professor of zoology, University of Liverpool; distinguished for his researches on the sense organs and central nervous system of animals, particularly for his work on hearing in insects and man.

Prof. A. G. SHENSTONE, professor of physics, University of Princeton; formerly scientific liaison officer in London of the Canadian National Research Council; distinguished for his spectroscopic researches.

Prof. H. E. SHORTT, head of the Department of Parasitology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; distinguished for his work on protozoal diseases.

Prof. M. STACEY, professor of chemistry, University of Birmingham; distinguished for his researches in organic chemistry, especially his studies of the carbohydrates of animal tissue and of micro-organisms.

Dr. L. E. SUTTON, demonstrator and lecturer in physical chemistry, University of Oxford; distinguished for his work on the electrical properties of molecules.

R. L. M. SYNGE, biochemist, Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeenshire; distinguished for his application of the principle of partition chromatography to the separation of amino-acids and peptides.

Dr. B. P. UVAROV, director of the Anti-Locust Research Centre, British Museum (Natural History); distinguished for his scientific researches on the Orthoptera and for the leading part he has played in the international organisation of measures for the control of locusts.

Prof. F. C. WILLIAMS, professor of electro-technics, University of Manchester; distinguished for his work on radar and the development of electrical computing machines.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Botany at Manchester:

Prof. S. C. Harland, F.R.S.

DR. S. C. HARLAND, reader in genetics in the University of Manchester, has been appointed Harrison professor of botany and director of the Laboratories and Experimental Grounds, in succession to Prof. Eric Ashby, who was recently elected president and vice-chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast (*Nature*, October 22, 1949). Dr. Harland has had a distinguished career in economic botany and is one of the leading authorities in the world on plant genetics. He graduated at King's College, London, and he has been successively head of the Botanical Department of the Shirley Institute, professor of botany and genetics in the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, chief geneticist to the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and director of the Institute of Cotton Genetics of the National Agricultural Society of Peru. Dr. Harland's principal contributions to genetics have been made with the cotton plant, and his book "The Genetics of Cotton" is the standard work on the subject. His researches are remarkable for their boldness of approach and their relevance not only to cotton breeders, but also to plant geographers and experimental taxonomists. Dr. Harland is an inspiring teacher and a man of wide interests, so it is a matter of great satisfaction that he has been called upon to maintain the high tradition of botany at the University of Manchester.

### Scientific Freedom and Security in the United States

THE Council of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences has submitted to President Truman a statement relating to certain provisions of the National Science Foundation Bill HR 4846 as passed by the House of Representatives on March 1. After referring to the main object of the measure, the statement continues: "One set of protective measures is rightly aimed at the security of information vital to the national defense. Scientific and technical information has come to play an important role in this

defense. We are gravely disturbed, however, to see that security measures are being extended widely over the scientific life of the country, even in those areas remote from possible military application. This development will defeat the growth of science by inhibiting the free exchange of information so vital to it, by discouraging the bravest and most original minds, and by the pervasive threat of irreparable injury to individuals inherent in all counter-intelligence measures. If we are concerned with these developments it is not because we ask a special privilege for scientists; it is because they cannot lose their freedom without jeopardizing the freedom of all Americans."

In his covering letter to President Truman, Dr. Alfred N. Richards, president of the Academy, points out that the statement "is designedly limited to principles so broad as to be applicable not only to science but to other intellectual pursuits. It has developed, however, from more specific considerations." The Academy is particularly concerned about the amendment providing "for FBI investigation and clearance of every person who is to be awarded a scholarship or fellowship under the terms of the bill". While it is agreed that such precautions are necessary in dealing with those who work in classified fields or have access to restricted data, to submit large numbers of young persons to such investigations is unnecessary and may even be positively detrimental to the objectives of the bill. "Knowledge of the nature of FBI investigations and reports among prospective applicants for scholarships may well be expected to develop in them habits of caution, reticence and suspicion, which are the antithesis of frank truthfulness which science demands. A deplorable trend to conformity and a deterioration in the intellectual climate could be expected to follow." In conclusion, Dr. Richards said that the statement was "the basis of the decision of the National Academy of Sciences to limit the participation of the National Research Council in the non-secret part of the AEC fellowship program to advisory assistance".