

NEWS and VIEWS

University of the Witwatersrand :

Dr. Humphrey R. Raikes

DR. HUMPHREY RIVAZ RAIKES, vice-chancellor and principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, is to retire; he was appointed principal in 1928 and vice-chancellor in 1948. Dr. Raikes received his early education at Tonbridge School and Dulwich College, and went up to Oxford in 1910. After serving in the First World War, he was elected a Fellow of Exeter College in 1919, a position which he held until he went to the University of the Witwatersrand. In the quarter of a century since his arrival, the annual student enrolment of the University has more than tripled—from 1,362 in 1927 to 4,272 in 1953, which is but a slight recession from its post-war crest of 5,240 in 1946; the professorial staff has increased from 36 to 53, and the academic and administrative staff has quadrupled, from about 180 to more than 720. Typical of the contribution made by the University's graduates to the social life of the South African community is the fact that its medical graduates, the first of whom graduated in 1924, to-day number 2,038 and constitute a third of the practitioners on the Union register of medical practitioners. Concurrently, its faculties of arts and science, engineering and architecture, commerce, law and dentistry have made correspondingly impressive impacts upon the communities of South Africa in particular, and of the African continent generally, especially during and after the First and Second World Wars. A token of the Institution's expanding needs is the launching of its £1,000,000 appeal for funds, which was one of Dr. Raikes's latest activities. Emblematic of the variety and service characterizing the institution's progress under his leadership are the establishment of the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research, the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research, the University Speech Voice and Hearing Clinic, the University Field Botanical Research Station at Frankenwald, the Oral and Dental Hospital, the Alexandra Township Health Centre and the James Grey Community Centre. It is indicative of the international recognition extended to this progress and leadership that honorary degrees have been conferred on Dr. Raikes by the Universities of Cape Town, Bristol, Toronto and Cambridge.

Prof. W. G. Sutton

PROF. WILLIAM GODFREY SUTTON, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand, has been appointed principal of the University in succession to Dr. Humphrey R. Raikes. Prof. Sutton was educated at King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, South African College and the University of Cape Town, becoming lecturer in applied mathematics at the South African College in 1914. After serving in the First World War in German East Africa, he took the B.Sc.(Eng.) with distinction in 1918, and joined the Irrigation Department of the Union of South Africa as assistant engineer. He was seconded to the United States Reclamation Service to gain practical experience (1921-22), and appointed to the chair of civil engineering at Johannesburg in 1926. During the Second World War he served first as general manager of the Central Organization of Technical Training in the Department of Defence, later as chief technical

adviser in the Department of Commerce and Industries, and finally as chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Government on post-war development in the engineering and chemical industries of South Africa. He had visited Germany in 1937 as a member of the British delegation to study the Reichsbahn, and in 1946 represented the S.A. Standards Institution at the Commonwealth Standards Conference and the conference of the International Organization for Standardization. Prof. Sutton has been president of the S.A. Institution of Engineers (1936-37), of Section A of the S.A. Association for the Advancement of Science (1941), of the S.A. Society of Civil Engineers in 1945, and of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa (1951). He served as chairman of the S.A. Standards Institution (1946-50), as a member of the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers (Great Britain) during 1950-52, and is at present a member of the S.A. Natural Resources Development Council and of the Council of the S.A. Bureau of Standards.

Paris Academy of Sciences : Elections

THE following elections have recently been made in the Paris Academy of Sciences: Prof. K. M. G. Siegbahn, director of the Nobel Institute for Physics, Stockholm, to be a foreign associate of the Academy in succession to the late Prof. S. Winogradsky; Prof. Francis Perrin, professor of atomic and molecular physics in the Collège de France and high commissioner of the French Atomic Energy Commissariat, to be a member of the Physics Section of the Academy in succession to the late Prof. J. Becquerel; Prof. H. J. Backer, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Groningen, to be a *correspondant* in the Chemistry Section of the Academy in succession to Prof. Paul Karrer, recently elected a foreign associate; and Prof. J. Andrieux, professor of electrochemistry in the University of Grenoble and director of the École Nationale supérieure d'Électrochimie et d'Électrometallurgie, Grenoble, to be a *correspondant* in the Chemistry Section of the Academy in succession to the late Prof. A. F. Holleman.

Presentation to Dr. Charles Singer

At a luncheon at Fowey on December 19, Dr. Charles Singer, emeritus professor of the history of medicine in the University of London, was presented with two volumes of essays, entitled "Science, Medicine and History: Essays on the Evolution of Scientific Thought and Medical Practice", written in his honour and published by the Oxford University Press. It is an indication of the world-wide appreciation of Dr. Singer as a historian of science and of medicine that nearly one hundred authors from many countries, all authorities in their special fields, have contributed to this work, which runs to twelve hundred pages and includes more than a hundred plates as well as other illustrations. The essays were collected and edited by Dr. E. Ashworth Underwood, director of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library. In formally presenting Dr. Singer with a specially bound copy of the two volumes of essays in full polished morocco with gilt edges and inscribed "Carolo Singer haec studia gratissime d. d. d. auctores mensis dec. die xix MCMLIII", Sir Zachary Cope, in the unavoidable absence of Sir Arthur MacNalty (formerly chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health), referred to Dr. Singer's outstanding contribution to the history of science, medicine and