

College, Hull; E. T. Osborne, director of chemical inspection, Ministry of Supply; Prof. W. Riddet, professor of agriculture, Massey Agricultural College, Palmerston North, New Zealand; G. Darnley Smith, chairman, Radio Industry Council, managing director of Bush Radio, Ltd.; Dr. B. A. Southgate, director, Water Pollution Research Laboratory, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; F. W. G. White, chief executive officer, Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Commonwealth of Australia; Prof. S. W. Wooldridge, professor of geography, University of London, for services to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Principal of University College, Exeter:

Prof. J. W. Cook, F.R.S.

PROF. J. W. COOK, regius professor of chemistry in the University of Glasgow, has been appointed principal of the University College of the South West, Exeter, in succession to the late Sir Thomas Taylor. Prof. Cook went to Glasgow in 1939 from the chair in the University of London which he held at the Lister Institute. His Glasgow period has been marked by conspicuous achievement. In addition to the organization and care of a large department of organic chemistry, he has built up a flourishing school in his own and related fields of interest, and has given the strongest support to developments in other branches of his science. The regius professor has the duty of acting as administrative head of the whole Institute of Chemistry at Glasgow—a task which has been particularly heavy since the end of the War. In 1937, the University had begun to erect a very large new chemistry building. By the outbreak of war in 1939, only the first stage of this operation had been accomplished, so that it has fallen to Prof. Cook in the period since 1947 to preside over the completion of the building and its equipment for every form of chemical teaching and research, a task now almost ended. In addition, Prof. Cook has taken a very full share of the administrative business of the University, as a member of the University Court, and as chairman of many committees. He has given much service to the general scientific and industrial interests of the west of Scotland, as well as to his own professional institutions. He has also been a member of the University Grants Committee. Glasgow parts from him with profound regret.

Physical Chemistry at Nottingham:

Prof. D. D. Eley

DR. D. D. ELEY, who has been appointed to the newly established chair of physical chemistry in the University of Nottingham, is a Manchester graduate, and after three years research on chemical kinetics with Prof. M. Polanyi, carried out postgraduate work with Prof. (now Sir) Eric Rideal at Cambridge. The latter led to extramural research on explosives problems for the Ministry of Supply during the Second World War. In 1945 he was appointed lecturer in colloid chemistry at the University of Bristol, and in 1951 reader in biophysical chemistry. Dr. Eley has taken a considerable part in the development of an honours school of biological chemistry at Bristol. His experimental investigations have been aimed at the basic mechanisms of inorganic and enzymatic catalysis. His work has included studies on Friedel-Crafts catalysis, polymerization kinetics, polymer rheology, exchange reactions, parahydrogen conversion on metal surfaces, and the solvent action of water and

the problems of hydration. In his biophysical work he has made studies on hydrogenase, and on the kinetics of cholinesterase action and inhibition. He has investigated the semi-conductivity of large molecules, including haemoglobin, with the view of possible applications in enzyme action. His work on catalysis has been recognized both in Great Britain and abroad. Dr. Eley gave the Reilly Lectures at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and also has been awarded the medal of the University of Liège. He has played an active part on the Council of the Faraday Society.

Institution of the Rubber Industry: Awards for 1953

THE highest award of the Institution of the Rubber Industry, the Colwyn Medal, has been presented to Dr. D. Parkinson, manager of the Compounding Research Division, Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., for conspicuous services of a scientific character to the industry. The Hancock Medal for 1953 has been awarded to Mr. H. Rogers, for conspicuous services, especially in connexion with education and research. The presentations were made at the annual dinner of the Institution, held in Manchester on December 10. It is of interest to note that Dr. Parkinson was originally a geologist, and is known for his work on Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy in Lancashire and Yorkshire, which he is continuing; he is also engaged in biometrical studies of brachiopods from the reef limestones of these areas.

Pollution of the River Thames

ON December 15 the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. H. Macmillan, made the following written statement, afterwards circulated, in reply to a question in the House of Commons on research into the pollution of the River Thames: "The extensive research still in progress covers such things as the quantities, temperature, and chemical and biological condition, at various points and times, of the estuary water itself and of the discharges into it from the upper Thames, tributaries, sewage works, and industrial premises (including gas works and power stations); the nature and behaviour of bottom mud and suspended solids; the volume and movement of liquid within the estuary; and the interactions of these and other factors, in varying conditions, as affecting—among other things—the production, oxidation, solution, and release, of hydrogen sulphide. Much of it is fundamental research now being undertaken for the first time, and the results should be of considerable use in relation not only to the Thames but also to other estuaries . . . it is already accepted that a major cause of the complaints in the lower reaches of the Thames is the need to improve the purification of London's sewage, and the London County Council, who have long been anxious to carry out the necessary works, have now been authorised to do so".

Higher Technological Education in Great Britain

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on December 15, regarding the Government's plans for the development of higher technological education in Great Britain, Mr. R. A. Butler said that these plans would afford improved facilities for both post-graduate and undergraduate students, and he expected that the universities and colleges concerned, the schools and industry would all play their part in the measures required to encourage an increased flow