

could penetrate an exterior reserve, it appeared that Gow took such responsibilities easily in his stride. Always unruffled, precise, even pontifical in manner, he held in firm grasp the controls of a machine of steadily growing complexity, while maintaining excellent relations with those responsible for the direction of academic studies and from time to time disclosing the warmth of sympathetic understanding which characterized his unofficial relationships with fellow members of the College. He served under four

rectors: Dr. Henry Bovey, Sir Alfred Keogh, Sir Thomas Holland and Sir Henry Tizard. During his retirement, in which until recently he continued to enjoy the devoted companionship of his wife, he retained his interest in the affairs of the Imperial College through occasional correspondence with his former colleague and successor in office. The expansion of the College, now in progress, rests on foundations well and truly laid by men among whose names that of Alexander Gow occupies a worthy place.

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society Medals: Awards for 1955

THE following awards of medals have been made by the President and the Council of the Royal Society:

Copley Medal to Sir Ronald Fisher, Arthur Balfour professor of genetics in the University of Cambridge, for his distinguished contributions to developing the theory and application of statistics for making quantitative a vast field of biology.

Davy Medal to Prof. H. W. Melville, Mason professor of chemistry in the University of Birmingham, for his distinguished work in physical chemistry and in polymer reactions.

Sylvester Medal to Prof. E. C. Titchmarsh, Savilian professor of geometry in the University of Oxford, for his distinguished researches on the analytical theory of numbers, and other branches of pure mathematics.

Hughes Medal to Prof. H. S. W. Massey, Quain professor of physics at University College in the University of London, for his distinguished contributions to atomic and molecular physics, particularly in regard to collisions involving the production and recombination of ions.

Royal Society of Edinburgh: Officers for 1955-56

THE following have been elected officers and members of council for 1955-56 of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: *President*, Prof. James Ritchie; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. A. H. R. Goldie, Prof. C. M. Yonge, Prof. Norman Feather, Prof. J. Norman Davidson, Principal H. B. Nisbet and Prof. Meirion Thomas; *General Secretary*, Dr. J. E. Richey; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Dr. T. R. Bolam and Dr. A. W. Greenwood; *Treasurer*, Mr. A. W. Young; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Dr. Douglas Guthrie; *Councillors*, Dr. J. M. Cowan, Dr. David Jack, Prof. J. M. Robertson, Prof. D. Whitteridge, Prof. E. M. Wright, Prof. E. L. Hirst, Dr. D. E. Rutherford, Dr. D. A. Allan, Prof. G. H. Bell, Dr. D. N. McArthur, Dr. A. G. MacGregor and Prof. C. H. Waddington.

Electrical Engineering at Birmingham:

Prof. D. G. Tucker

DR. D. G. TUCKER, who succeeds Prof. A. Tustin at Birmingham (see *Nature*, 175, 148; 1955), has spent several years at the Post Office Research Station, where he was engaged on research and development work on telephone transmission, including the war-time development of special carrier telephone systems; in 1946 he was head of the Post Office Transmission Measurements Research Group. In 1950 he joined the Royal Naval Scientific Service at H.M. Underwater Detection Establishment

at Portland, and he has resigned his post as a senior principal scientific officer at this Establishment in order to take the chair of electrical engineering in Birmingham. Dr. Tucker has had wide experience in telephone transmission research and in the development of very advanced types of under-water acoustic equipment. In addition, he has been engaged in applied research in electronics, acoustics, oceanography and operator problems. He holds the degrees of D.Sc. (Eng.) and Ph.D. in the University of London, and he has published a large number of papers dealing with electronic and transmission problems. He takes to Birmingham wide experience of applied research in the field of communications and electronics. In addition, he is a keen student of natural history, and he has published several papers on bird population studies in the *London Naturalist*, the journal of the London Natural History Society.

Foundry Metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Prof. H. F. Taylor

A NEW chair, the American Brake Shoe Company chair of foundry metallurgy, has been established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Prof. Howard F. Taylor, already professor of metallurgy and director of the Institute's Foundry Laboratory, has been appointed its first holder. Prof. Taylor graduated in chemical engineering and metallurgical engineering at Michigan State College and went in 1937 to the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., where he later became head of steel casting research. He joined the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1945 and in 1952 became a full professor. Partly in consideration of his work during the Second World War, Prof. Taylor was awarded the Peter L. Simpson Gold Medal in 1946 by the American Foundrymen's Society and the Army-Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 1948. The American Brake Shoe Company, which has more than fifty plants and is one of the leading foundry companies in the United States, has supported metallurgical work at the Institute with grants-in-aid, a graduate fellowship and undergraduate scholarships. During recent years the Institute's Foundry Laboratory has been greatly expanded, and it now provides some of the best facilities for research in this field in the United States.

Zoology at Lucknow:

Dr. M. B. Lal

THE Lucknow School of Zoology made great advances under the late Prof. K. N. Bahl (*Nature*, 174, 16; 1954), and good wishes for its continued progress will follow his recently appointed successor, Dr. Makund Behari Lal. Most of Dr. Lal's training has been at the University of Lucknow, where he