of which he was a founder member, he rarely came up to London. A very special occasion was the dinner given to him at University College by many of his old students on his eightieth birthday. Hundreds of his friends have kept in touch with him by letter or visits through the whole of his retirement.

Much remains to be said about this great man of science. An attractive and inspiring personality he certainly had. He was generous to a fault; his testimonials had to be heavily discounted. It was surprising to many that, while he could inspire self-confidence in others, he could not do the same for himself—perhaps the two are connected, for his sympathy and his generosity in praise might have sprung from a knowledge of what is needed by others. Religious ?—certainly in the *de facto* sense but not *de jure*. A sense of humour—who will forget his speech at a student rag dinner when a famous French professor was given his 'presidential' chain of office which incorporated a chain commonly found (only) in English households. As a teacher even the second law of thermodynamics took on a new light. In short, a man that many would like to be able to emulate.

The bomb that fell in Woburn Square left standing only the apple-green door. There it stood for many years until it was demolished some months ago to make room for a new extension to the University of London. Perhaps it will be replaced by a blue plaque, "Donnan lived here". C. F. Goodeve

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. S. Chandrasekhar

The award of the Rumford Premium of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences to Prof. Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar for his researches on radiative transfer of energy in the interior of stars was recently reported in *Nature* (**179**, 77; 1957). This further recognition of the valuable work of one who has already received the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Bruce Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific will be welcomed by Prof. Chandrasekhar's many friends on the east side of the Atlantic. Proceeding to Cambridge in 1930 after graduating at the Presidency College, Madras, he was awarded his Ph.D. in theoretical physics, was elected to a fellowship at Trinity College, and later obtained the degree of Sc.D. in theoretical astrophysics. In 1936 Prof. Chandrasekhar went to the Yerkes Observatory; there and in the University of Chicago he has gathered around him an influential group attacking a wide field of research in theoretical astrophysics. The Rumford award refers to one side of his work, but the titles of his other books, "An Introduction to the Study of Stellar Structure" and "Principles of Stellar Dynamics", cover different fields in which he has developed important studies; his George Darwin Lecture on "Problems of Stability in Hydrodynamics and Hydromagnetics" shows how widely Prof. Chandrasekhar casts his net. In his mathematical work he has made many fundamental contributions to astrophysics.

Physiology at Middlesex Hospital Medical School: Prof. Eric Neil

Prof. Eric Neil, who has just been appointed to the John Astor chair of physiology at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in succession to the late Prof. Samson Wright, was a student at the School of Medicine in Leeds, where he graduated in 1942. He obtained his M.D. in 1944 and was awarded his D.Sc. in 1953. During 1942–50 he was first demonstrator and then lecturer in physiology in Prof. Hemingway's department in Leeds. He was appointed senior lecturer in physiology in Prof. Samson Wright's department at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1950, and became reader in 1953. Prof. Neil's research activities have been varied, but his most important contributions have related to blood gases, reflex control of the circulation, studies on the larynx and the physiological changes accompanying hypothermia. His early academic interest in oxygen and carbon dioxide dissociation curves in blood found an important practical application when he came to study the disturbances induced by hypothermia in cardiac surgery. He was the first to describe the severe metabolic acidæmia and the serious liver damage which may accompany this procedure. He has made many important contributions to the reflex control of the circulation and respiration using electrophysiological techniques to study the activities of baro- and chemo-receptors. Some of this work was done in conjunction with Prof. Y. Zotterman in Stockholm. Prof. Neil is at present writing a monograph with Prof. C. Heymans, of Ghent, on this subject.

Tribute to Prof. M. Saha

The issue of *Science and Culture* for October 1956 is a special number devoted to the late Prof. Meghnad Saha's activities in research, education and scientific organization. The issue contains ten articles by colleagues, friends and students of Prof. Saha, dealing with his contributions to astrophysics, nuclear physics and the development of atomic research in India, geophysics, calendar reform, river valley developments, and his success as a teacher and organizer. Prof. Saha's contribution to the Dr. D. M. Bose Seventieth Birthday Commemoration Volume of the *Transactions of the Bose Research Institute* (**20**, 109; 1955) was an account of the present position of nuclear reactor development, and it is fitting that in the special number Dr. Bose should pay tribute to Saha by an article suggesting how the atomic energy power programme in India should proceed. He maintains that of the many proposals now being discussed concerning the most suitable form of memorial to commemorate the outstanding services of the late Prof. Saha, nothing could be better than the erection of a nuclear reactor in the region served by the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, the existence and present development of which are almost solely due to his efforts. Besides being an academic scientist who achieved international distinction by his theory of thermal ionization in solar and stellar atmospheres, Prof. Saha was responsible for a large number of extra-mural activities. He took the initiative in founding the National Academy of Sciences in India and became its first president in 1932, and in 1935 Prof. Saha became the first joint secretary of the National Institute of Sciences of