

Mr. H. T. Pledge, C.B.E.

By the death of Mr. H. T. Pledge on December 28, the library and scientific worlds have suffered a great loss.

Humphrey Thomas Pledge, son of Thomas Pledge, was born on November 6, 1903. He went to Tonbridge School and thence as an Exhibitioner to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a first in the Natural Sciences Tripos. After a short period of teaching at Wrekin College he entered the Science Museum Library as an assistant keeper in 1928.

During his early years in the Library, Pledge was concerned with its services to industry, both in lending and in providing information. It was during this time that he collected material for his major work, published by H.M. Stationery Office in 1939, under the title *Science since 1500*. This is a comprehensive and masterly historical survey of the development of the physical and biological sciences, which has been widely accepted as a standard book of reference. It has been reprinted three times in Great Britain and has also been published in the United States.

In 1945, Pledge became keeper of the Science Museum Library, and the full burden of the restoration of its services after their dislocation during the War fell on his shoulders. Later developments which added to his administrative responsibilities were the photocopying service and the impact on the Science Museum Library of the formation of the National Scientific Lending Library to take over gradually the former's lending service to industry. During his tenure of the keepership he continued to build up the Library into one of the finest scientific libraries in Britain, in spite of stringent limitations on the financial resources available to him.

Pledge's interests were wide, ranging from biography through the physical and biological sciences to ethnology and archaeology, and his knowledge was deep. His book brought fellow workers on the history and philosophy of science from all over the world to South Kensington to visit him. He took an active part in the founding of the British Society for the History of Science.

In 1934, Pledge married Ruth, daughter of the Rev. H. M. Brown, and they had one daughter. He was made a C.B.E. in 1960. S. E. JANSON

NEWS and VIEWS**U.S. Atomic Energy Commission :****Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg**

DR. GLENN THEODORE SEABORG, who has been appointed chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, was born in Ishpeming, Michigan, on April 19, 1912. After graduating at the University of California in chemistry in 1934, Dr. Seaborg held various research and teaching appointments in that University until 1942, when he was appointed section chief in the Manhattan Engineer District's Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago, where he conducted research in nuclear chemistry and physics; here he was responsible for developing the process used for the separation of plutonium from fuel elements irradiated in the production reactors at the Hanford installation at Richland, Washington. In 1946 he returned to the University of California at Berkeley as a professor in the Department of Chemistry. He was appointed chancellor of the University in 1958.

While serving as instructor at the University of California in 1940, Dr. Seaborg was co-discoverer of element 94 (plutonium), the first of a number of trans-uranic elements which his research activities revealed over the next fifteen years. He was the discoverer in 1941 of the isotope used as a source of nuclear energy, plutonium 239; in 1942 of the uranium isotope, uranium 233; in 1944 of elements 95 (americium) and 96 (curium); co-discoverer in 1949 of element 97 (berkelium); co-discoverer in 1950 of element 98 (californium); in 1952 of element 99 (einsteinium); in 1953 of element 100 (fermium); and in 1955 of element 101 (mendelevium). He was a member of the Atomic Energy Commission's General Advisory Committee from 1946 until 1950; member of the Joint Commission of Radioactivity, International Council of Scientific Unions, since 1946; and of the Committee of Standards and Units of Radioactivity, National Research Council, since 1947.

Anatomy and Biology at Western Reserve University

PROF. MARCUS SINGER has been appointed Henry Willson Payne professor of anatomy in Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. He is at present professor of zoology and of child development and family relationships in Cornell University. Prof. Howard A. Schneiderman, associate professor of biology in Cornell University, has been appointed professor of biology in Western Reserve University. Both appointments will be effective July 1, 1961.

A native of Pittsburgh, Prof. Singer first graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and later was awarded M.A. and Ph.D. degrees by Harvard University. He was on the Harvard staff during 1938-51, first in the Biology and Zoology Departments and later in the Anatomy Department of the Medical School. In 1950 he served as visiting professor at the Long Island College of Medicine in Brooklyn, New York. He went to Cornell as associate professor of zoology and of child development and family relationships in 1951 and became a full professor in 1953.

Prof. Schneiderman is a native of New York City. He attended Swarthmore College and Columbia University and graduated from the former in 1948 with honours in mathematics and natural sciences. He was granted the degree of M.A. and a doctorate by Harvard University. During 1952-53 he was a University research fellow in biology at Harvard. In 1953 he was appointed assistant professor of zoology at Cornell and was appointed associate professor in 1956.

Botany at Calcutta : Prof. S. M. Sircar

DR. S. M. SIRCAR has recently been appointed Sir Rashbehari Ghosh professor of botany in the University of Calcutta. This chair, created in 1914 in the name of its donor, is the oldest in Indian universities for fostering research work in botany