

NEWS and VIEWS

University College of North Staffordshire :

Dr. H. M. Taylor, C.B.E.

DR. H. M. TAYLOR, secretary general of the Faculties in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, Keele, from October 1, to succeed the late Sir George Barnes. He will bring to the service of Keele outstanding gifts of personality and a wide range of academic and administrative interests and experience. Dr. Taylor went up to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1928, after a distinguished undergraduate career at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and he continued to distinguish himself as undergraduate and research student in Cambridge. He graduated Ph.D. in 1933 and was elected Fellow of Clare in the same year. By 1939 he had made his mark in Cambridge as University lecturer in mathematics, secretary of the Faculty Board of Mathematics, director of studies in mathematics and steward of his College, and adjutant of the Officers' Training Corps. In these and many other fields he had given proof of great organizing ability, an orderly mind, industry, and a kindly and sympathetic personality.

After war service in the Army, as an instructor at the School of Artillery, Larkhill, Dr. Taylor returned to Cambridge in 1945 as University treasurer, and was made secretary general of the Faculties in 1953. He has thus had a unique experience in administering the educational and financial affairs of Cambridge, and he has made notable contributions to solving the complex problems of post-war building programmes and the academic development of the University. Dr. Taylor is in the first rank of ski-mountaineers and is also an authority on pre-Norman Conquest churches, on which he has in preparation what promises to be a definitive work. For his contributions to the study of Anglo-Saxon architecture he has recently been admitted to the fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries. To illustrate these interests he has brought a talent for photography and draughtsmanship. Despite the heavy calls of his office, he has remained readily accessible and prompt to help any member of the University staff, at whatever level, who has sought his counsel. He and Mrs. Taylor have been generous hosts, and they will leave in Cambridge many friends who will wish well to them and to Keele under Dr. Taylor's principalship.

Geography at the London School of Economics

THE constitution of the University of London is sufficiently elastic to permit the existence of many special institutions or arrangements. For the past forty years the Joint School of Geography of King's College and the London School of Economics has so flourished as to rank as the largest honours school in Britain both in numbers of staff and students. Students registered at King's College enter for degrees in the Faculties of Arts and Science, those at the London School of Economics in Arts and Economics; by tradition, though not by requirement, the professor at King's College specializes on the physical side, his colleague and joint head at the London School of Economics on the economic and human, but both are holders of University chairs of geography. As part of the post-war expansion of the social sciences, a

third chair, primarily, though not entirely, a research chair, was created and occupied by Prof. L. Dudley Stamp during 1948-58, with the title of professor of social geography. Prof. Stamp was succeeded in the regular professorship and joint headship of the School by Prof. R. Ogilvie Buchanan, who was previously at University College, London (see *Nature*, 164, 475; 1949). Prof. Buchanan retires in September under the age limit after thirteen years of office, during which he has held with distinction many positions in the University—including the present chairmanship of the Academic Council.

Prof. Emrys Jones

WHEN Prof. Stamp retired through pressure of outside work in 1958, a third chair of geography was established, to which Dr. Michael J. Wise was appointed, together with a readership in social geography to which Dr. Emrys Jones was appointed. Dr. Jones now becomes the third member of the professorial triumvirate—with Prof. S. W. Woolridge and Prof. Wise. Although the special chair or readership in social geography is now therefore in abeyance, Prof. Jones's appointment assures that the field of study, essentially the application of geographical methods of survey and analysis to present problems, will not be neglected. Trained under Prof. H. J. Fleure at Aberystwyth, he went to London after some years at the Queen's University of Belfast. His recently published book, *A Social Geography of Belfast*, is a notable contribution, breaking new ground and showing promise of new developments in the borderland between sociology and geography.

Botany at Jodhpur: Prof. C. V. Subramanian

PROF. C. V. SUBRAMANIAN has been appointed to the newly created chair in botany of the University of Rajasthan, at Jodhpur. Prior to his appointment, Prof. Subramanian had successively held the posts of lecturer (1951-53) and reader (1953-58) in botany at the University of Madras, and professor of plant pathology (1958-60) in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. After graduating with a first-class honours in botany from the University of Madras in 1944, he studied soil mycology under Prof. T. S. Sadasivan in the same University, and obtained his Ph.D. in 1947 for work on the saprophytic behaviour of the *Fusarium* causing cotton wilt. In 1957 he obtained the D.Sc. degree of the same University for his work on the taxonomy of imperfect fungi. For several years past he has made an intensive study of the hyphomycetes including soil *Fusaria*, and has published many papers on the tropical forms of this group, as well as the Sphaeropsidales which had hitherto not received much attention from Indian mycologists. For some time Prof. Subramanian worked in the Botany School, Cambridge, with Dr. S. D. Garrett on soil fungi, and in the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, on hyphomycetes with Mr. E. W. Mason. Prof. Subramanian is a Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India and of the Indian Academy of Sciences. Although a new laboratory has yet to be constructed at Jodhpur, work has