

pineapple canning industry, which had suffered a tremendous setback during the Japanese occupation of the country.

In 1949 he was appointed director of the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon, a post he held for seven years, and which gave him an opportunity of proving that he possessed considerable administrative ability. As an acknowledged authority on coconuts and pineapples, he visited a number of countries to study local problems and to give advice. He published many valuable reports and articles, notably on coconuts in the Philippines, Ceylon and the Seychelles, and on pineapples in Hawaii. He also founded and edited for a number of years the *Ceylon Coconut Quarterly*.

Cooke returned from the East in 1957 to become editor of *World Crops*, a post he held with great

distinction until his death. He brought to his editorial duties a wide knowledge of agriculture and chemical engineering and a new-found ability to express deeply felt convictions with force and clarity. Throughout his career he did much to assist agriculture in the tropics, especially in the less-developed countries.

Frank Cooke saw active service in both World Wars. In the first he served for three years in Mesopotamia. Earlier in his career in Malaya he joined the Malayan Volunteer Forces. As a commissioned officer in this Unit he fought in the War in Malaya and was taken prisoner in Singapore. During the post-war emergency, advantage was taken of his intimate knowledge of the country when he guided forces in jungle operations against communist bandits.

D. H. GRIST

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Inorganic Chemistry at Manchester :

Prof. F. Fairbrother

PROF. F. FAIRBROTHER, who retires this year from his chair of inorganic chemistry in the University of Manchester, has spent almost the whole of his working life there since he entered the University as a Seaton Scholar in 1912. He graduated in 1915, with first-class honours in chemistry, and was appointed to the staff in 1919. He became reader in inorganic chemistry in 1941 and has held his present chair since 1960. During 1936-37 he held a Leverhulme Fellowship at the University of California and the California Institute of Technology. He has been for many years an examiner, and more recently chief examiner in chemistry, for the Joint Matriculation Board. His research, initially in the field of colloid chemistry, soon turned towards the measurement of dielectric polarization and its significance in inorganic chemistry. His principal interests have been in the general nature of electrolytic dissociation processes, and his work has included studies on the dipole moments of hydrogen halides and cyanogen halides, and the earliest recognition of the charge separation in iodine molecules caused by donor solvents. His demonstration of equilibrium halogen exchange between certain organic chlorides and aluminium chloride, and so of the importance of carbonium ions in Friedel-Crafts reactions, was an important step forward in the study of that reaction. More recently he has worked on the chemistry of niobium and tantalum. Prof. Fairbrother was a pioneer in the study and teaching of inorganic chemistry on a physical basis. While inorganic chemistry suffered neglect in many universities, it remained an important integral part of the Manchester School of Chemistry. His labours have provided a sound basis for further advance.

Prof. J. Lewis

PROF. FAIRBROTHER is succeeded by Dr. J. Lewis, at present reader in inorganic chemistry in University College, London. Dr. Lewis graduated with first-class honours from the former University College, Nottingham, in 1949. Three years later he went to Sheffield as assistant lecturer, transferring in 1956 to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and in 1957 to University College, where he was promoted to a readership last year. During 1960 he held a professorship in the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology, and while there travelled extensively in the United States. His early work was concerned with solutions in liquid dinitrogen tetroxide, and was followed by a study of the surface properties of liquid sodium. In recent years his main work has been in the field of transition metal complexes, and especially the application of magnetic and spectroscopic techniques to the elucidation of their structures. He is at present following up his early interest in metallic nitrosyls, developed while he was still at Nottingham.

### Veterinary Physiology at Edinburgh : Prof. A. Iggo

DR. ANSLEY IGGO has been appointed to the newly instituted chair of veterinary physiology at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh. Dr. Iggo was trained in New Zealand in agriculture and went to Sir John Eccles at Dunedin, where he obtained a B.Sc. with first-class honours. He worked on the movements of the stomach in ruminants at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, in 1951, and when he went to the Department of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh in 1952 he isolated single afferent nerve fibres from the bladder and stomach and related their activity to contraction of the surrounding smooth muscle. He went on to isolate single afferent units which conduct at 1 m.p.s. and are presumably unmyelinated. With this useful technique, he has worked on the smallest fibres from the skin which were thought to be 'non-specific', and has shown that they are excited either by tension or by temperature changes. Dr. Iggo was elected to a Locke Research Fellowship in 1959. He spent a year at Canberra with Sir John Eccles working on the activation of Renshaw cells and allied problems and afterwards worked for a short time on temperature receptors with Prof. H. Hensel in the University of Marburg. He has had a variety of experience both of teaching medical, dental and physiology honours students and of full-time research. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is now moving its final-year departments to new buildings on the Bush Estate, where facilities have been provided for teaching and research in connexion with farm animals. As a result, the departments remaining in Edinburgh are now in a position to expand, and among the changes contemplated precedence was given to the development of the Department of Veterinary Physiology.