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NEWS and VIEWS

Physics at the University of Lancaster:

Prof. E. R. Dobbs

DR. E. R. DOBBS has been appointed to the chair of physics at the new University of Lancaster. Dr. Dobbs graduated at University College, London, in 1943, where he began research under Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade on the viscosity of liquid metals. He was appointed to the academic staff of Queen Mary College in 1949 and worked in low-temperature physics on properties of the solidified inert gases, utilizing X-ray crystallography and ultrasonic techniques. After two years' leave of absence in the United States at Brown University, where he worked on micro-wave acoustics, he went to the Royal Society Mond. Laboratory, Cambridge, as an Associated Electrical Industries Fellow, continuing to work in the field of microwave acoustics applied to solid-state problems. He has recently been visiting physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago. Dr. Dobbs has a wide experience of the experimental methods of solid-state physics and teaching experience gained in several different university traditions which will serve him in good stead in the new University of Lancaster.

Biochemistry at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand: Prof. B. H. Howard

DR. B. H. HOWARD, who has been appointed to the newly created chair of biochemistry at Lincoln College, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, is a graduate of the University of Manchester. Owing to war-time conditions he was not immediately able to take up a post in the field of biochemistry, which was his main interest, but was employed for some time in commercial and Government laboratories. In 1947 he moved to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as personal assistant to Prof. H. Raistrick where he carried out work on the metabolic products, especially the colouring matters, of Penicillium and Aspergillus species. This work was incorporated in a number of papers in the Biochemical Journal, and during this period Howard obtained a Ph.D. degree of the University of London. His work in London also included some teaching of biochemistry and microbiology. In early 1954 he joined the staff of the Rowett Research Institute in the Microbiology Department where he started an investigation into the biochemistry of the rumen protozoa, a field which at that time was virtually unexplored. Since then he has published alone, or in collaboration with Dr. Abou Akkada, a visiting worker at the Institute, some ten papers on this subject. His work in this field has greatly extended knowledge of the metabolism of the anaerobic rumen protozoa and has laid a foundation on which future workers can build. Dr. Howard was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1958. In 1961 he spent a year in New Zealand as a Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Senior Fellow at the Plant Chemistry Laboratories, Palmerston North.

Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Leeds: Prof. D. Lewis

DR. D. LEWIS has been appointed to the chair of agricultural chemistry in the Department of Agriculture, University of Leeds, from a date to be arranged. Dr.

Lewis graduated with honours in agricultural chemistry at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1946, and was awarded the degree of M.Sc. in 1947. He then entered the School of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge and, a year later, he obtained honours in Part II of the Natural Science Tripos (biochemistry). He was elected senior scholar of St. John's College. He joined the staff of the Department of Microbiology in the University of Sheffield in 1949 and was awarded a Ph.D. degree by that University in 1951. He was a member of the staff of the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology, Cambridge, from 1952 until 1958: his research was mainly concerned with certain aspects of protein nutrition of sheep and their thyroid function. He was appointed lecturer in agricultural chemistry at the University of Nottingham in 1958 and promoted to a readership in agricultural chemistry in 1961.

Medical Microbiology at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School: Prof. A. P. Waterson

DR. A. P. WATERSON has been appointed to the chair of medical microbiology at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School. Dr. Waterson, who is forty years of age, was educated at Epsom College, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and the London Hospital Medical College, where he qualified in medicine in 1947. At Cambridge, Waterson was placed in Class 1 both in the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I, and in Part II (biochemistry). After house appointments at the London Hospital and service in the Royal Air Force in Germany, he took the M.R.C.P. (London) in 1950 and returned to Cambridge as house physician at Addenbrooke's Hospital, where he afterwards worked for two years in the clinical laboratories. He was appointed University demonstrator in pathology in 1953. He took the M.D. (Cambridge) in 1954. Since 1958 he has been University lecturer in pathology. He is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, and a tutor and director of studies in medicine at the College. Following some work on the titration of viruses by plaque formation in tissue culture, his research has been concerned principally with an investigation of the structure of the viruses of man and other vertebrates, and of the biological significance of the components of the viral particle. This has involved particularly the viruses of the influenza and parainfluenza groups, and also the measles group. He is the author of Introduction to Animal Virology (1961).

British Technical Co-operation Overseas

In reply to questions in the House of Commons on January 14, the Secretary for Technical Co-operation, Mr. R. Carr, said Britain was spending nearly £1 million in the present financial year on supporting research in Britain for the benefit of developing countries. He instanced the Anti-locust Research Centre, the Tropical Products Institute and the Tsetse Fly Laboratory, opened at Bristol in December. Grants were also made by his Department for research at universities and other institutions. On the advice of the Colonial University Grants Advisory Committee, he had allocated £325,000 to the new University of Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland from funds available under the Commonwealth Development Act, 1963, for the three