

His influence on science in Australia was considerable and he was much sought after to serve on important committees both within and outside the University. He was a council member and past president of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering, a member of the committee at present drafting a new science syllabus for secondary schools in New South Wales and a member for many years of the Council of the University of New England.

Prof. Somerville's wise and kindly influence on his many students and colleagues will be long remembered, as will his contribution to the establishment of the University of New England.

N. H. FLETCHER

### Mr. C. C. L. Gregory

MR. GREGORY, who was killed in a street accident on November 24, 1964, will be remembered as the astronomer who set up the University of London Observatory at Mill Hill. However, he had many other interests and activities.

He was born on May 13, 1892, and developed an interest in astronomy in early life. He gained a B.A. honours degree at the University of Cambridge in 1915 and started research at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where the Diploma of the Imperial College was conferred on him in 1917. From studying the ammonium spectrum in London, he went, in 1919, as chief assistant to the Helwan Observatory, Egypt, there

to make a major contribution to the photographic survey of nebulae with the 36-in. Reynolds reflector.

From 1921 he was lecturer in astronomy in the Mathematics Department of the University College, London. However, Mr. Gregory was a practically minded astronomer, and talk of a research observatory was soon opened between him and Prof. Filon. About 1924 a 24-in. reflecting telescope was found to be available. This was accepted from Mr. F. G. Wilson (County Westmeath) and erected in 1929 at Mill Hill. Mr. Gregory became the Wilson Observer. Under his direction the Observatory continued to expand—the large Radcliffe twin refractor was erected in 1939. He mixed day-time lecturing with Observatory management and night observing. He kept up a centre of undergraduate astronomical teaching in the University College at a time when other university observatories were turning preferentially to postgraduate studies.

Throughout his life he had a strong interest in parapsychology and metaphysics, and in 1950 he resigned from astronomy to turn completely to such subjects. In 1954 he was joint author with Anita Kohsen of a book entitled *Physical and Psychical Research (An Analysis of Belief)*. Later, Mr. Gregory and Miss Kohsen were married. Jointly they set up the Institute for the Study of Mental Images and brought out a journal entitled *Cosmos*. This journal was to terminate with its forty-first number, and by tragic coincidence Mr. Gregory's death occurred while No. 41 was being prepared.

C. W. ALLEN

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Biological Sciences in the College of Advanced Technology, Birmingham: Prof. A. J. Matty

DR. A. J. MATTY, who is at present senior lecturer in comparative pharmacology in the University of St. Andrews, has been appointed professor of biological sciences and head of the new Department at the College of Advanced Technology, Birmingham, as from January 1. Dr. Matty, who is forty years old, was educated at the Central Grammar School, Birmingham, and at University College, Nottingham, where in 1948 he took a B.Sc. (Special) London External degree in zoology. In 1951 he obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Nottingham. Dr. Matty began his career as a demonstrator in zoology at the University of Nottingham, where he was later appointed lecturer. In 1959 he became lecturer at the University of St. Andrews, where, at the newly built Wellcome Laboratories of Pharmacology at the Gatty Marine Laboratory, he established teaching and research in comparative pharmacology. Dr. Matty's research has been concerned with comparative and cellular endocrinology, particularly on problems of thyroid function in lower animals. He was awarded one of the first Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries in 1955 for research in Bermuda on the thyroid gland of *Scarus guamacia*. Other research work carried out by Dr. Matty has been concerned with the effect of thyroid hormones on membrane permeability, on the pituitaries of fishes, on cyclostome endocrinology, and on intestinal transport in mammals.

### Mathematics in the University of Keele:

Prof. A. P. Robertson

DR. A. P. ROBERTSON, whose appointment to the chair of mathematics in the University of Keele in succession to Prof. D. S. Jones was announced recently, was born in 1925. He pursued his undergraduate studies in the University of Glasgow, graduating M.A. with first-class honours in mathematics and natural philosophy early in 1946. Because of the requirements of the National

Service Act he was not able to leave Glasgow to continue his studies elsewhere and acted as an assistant lecturer in mathematics until October 1947, when he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, to read for the Mathematics Tripos. He gained a B.A. of the University of Cambridge in 1949 and Ph.D. in 1954 (being elected a Fellow of his own college in that year). Apart from a year in the University of Kansas, Dr. Robertson has been on the mathematics staff of the University of Glasgow since 1961, first as a lecturer and latterly as a senior lecturer. Dr. Robertson is well known for his original contributions to 'classical' analysis and functional analysis. This year saw the publication of the Cambridge Mathematical Tract *Topological Vector Spaces* written by Dr. Robertson and his wife; this has already been acclaimed as a most useful survey of an important part of functional analysis. His interest in reforms in the mathematical curriculum both at school and university, as well as his status as a research worker in an important branch of modern pure mathematics, fit him admirably for the chair he is now called to occupy.

### Physics in the University of Leeds: Prof. F. E. Hoare

DR. F. E. HOARE, reader in physics in the University of Leeds, has been appointed to an additional chair in the Department of Physics in the University. Dr. Hoare was educated at the Municipal Secondary School, Brighton, and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. He gained first-class honours in physics in the examinations for the degree of B.Sc. and Associateship of the Royal College of Science. He was awarded the degrees of M.Sc. in 1930 and Ph.D. in 1932 for work on radiation measurements. In 1928 Dr. Hoare was appointed assistant lecturer in physics at the then University College, Exeter, and was promoted to a lectureship in 1934. During the Second World War he was engaged on scientific work for the Admiralty. He joined the University of Leeds in 1946 as lecturer in physics and was promoted to a senior lectureship in 1952 and a readership in 1954.