

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin, O.M., F.R.S.

THE award of the Order of Merit (the personal gift of the Queen) to Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin makes history in that she is the first woman scientist ever to receive it, and only the second woman to be so honoured by the monarch since the Order was instituted. That she should now be joining Florence Nightingale in this eminence has its parallels and its contrasts. Dorothy Hodgkin is a person of very deep humanitarian interests and concerns, and she has frequently helped and supported her husband in his work in Africa as director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. But nothing could be more remote from the wilful and formidable browbeater of ministers and generals than the modest and retiring crystallographer whose work, incidentally, has been carried out against the background of a demanding but happy family life. Her special genius has lain in the unravelling of the structure, by X-ray methods, of complex molecules, and its special timeliness has lain in the fact that she has carried it deep into the realm of biologically important substances (see *Nature* of December 5, 1964). Dorothy Hodgkin received the Nobel Prize in 1964. In 1960 she was chosen by the Royal Society, from an open field, to be the first Wolfson research professor.

Physics in the University of North Wales, Bangor :

Prof. W. L. Wilcock

DR. W. L. WILCOCK, who has been appointed to an additional chair of physics in the University of North Wales, Bangor, was born at Widnes, Lancashire. He was educated at Wade Deacon Grammar School, Widnes, and at the University of Manchester, where he graduated B.Sc. in physics with first-class honours in 1943. From then until the end of the Second World War he worked in the Photographic Instrument Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, where, besides surviving a most unpleasant aircraft crash while engaged on experimental work, he contributed extensively to war requirements in this field. After the War he returned to carry out postgraduate research in physics at Manchester, where he worked with Prof. S. Tolansky on interferometry of crystal surfaces from 1945 until 1947. He was appointed assistant lecturer in physics at Manchester in 1946 and moved to the University of St. Andrews as lecturer in 1948, but returned to Manchester as lecturer in physics in 1950. In that year he gained his Ph.D. in physics. For the next six years, besides contributing to the teaching and administration in the Manchester Physics Department, Dr. Wilcock was engaged in research in the field of optics and electronics in particular as applied to astronomical instrumentation. In October 1956 he was appointed to a readership in the recently established Section of Instrument Technology (now Applied Physics) in the Physics Department in the Imperial College of Science and Technology headed by Prof. J. D. McGee. In this work he has been concerned with the physics of photoelectronic devices and his most notable achievement was the development of a high-gain electron image multiplier which, for the first time in Britain, enabled single photons to be observed and recorded. Dr. Wilcock spent February–April 1960 in the United States, mainly at Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, working on the assessment of these image tubes in astronomical applications, and he was invited to Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, for the second half of 1963 as visiting professor when he carried out work in the same field.

Psychology in the University of Birmingham :

Prof. P. L. Broadhurst

DR. P. L. BROADHURST, at present senior lecturer in the Department of Anatomy in the Medical School, University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the newly established chair of psychology in that University from October 1. Dr. Broadhurst graduated with honours in psychology from University College, London, in 1950, after which he studied for a year at Stanford University, California, where he obtained the degree of M.A. in psychology in 1961. He was awarded a Ph.D. in psychology by the University of London in 1956. Dr. Broadhurst joined the staff of the Institute of Psychiatry in the University of London as a research psychologist in 1951 and became successively lecturer and senior lecturer. He was in charge of the Animal Psychology Laboratory of the Institute from 1955 until 1963 when he went to Birmingham. He spent the summer of 1962 as a visiting professor in the Department of Psychology of the University of Wisconsin. His research work has been concerned with many aspects of psychology including thought processes in psychotic people, the principles used in interpreting human behaviour, high nervous activity, the effects of drugs used in treating nervous disorders, and animal behaviour. He has gained international recognition for his work on the inheritance of behaviour in rats and other mammals, in which he has shown that not only learning ability but emotional reactions are governed to a considerable extent by the genes the animal obtains from its parents. As a by-product of these investigations, strains of rats selected and bred for specific behavioural traits are becoming available, for the first time, to research workers. Dr. Broadhurst's international reputation and wide interests fit him well to become the first professor and head of the new Department of Psychology, the teaching and research of which will range over the whole field from the behaviour of animals to the social psychology of man.

Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize

PROF. G. A. SIM has been awarded the Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize for 1963, in recognition of his outstanding work in the elucidation of complex organic structures by the method of X-ray analysis. This award, consisting of a silver medal and a monetary prize of 500 guineas, is made annually to the chemist of either sex and of British nationality who, in the judgment of the Council of the Chemical Society, has published during the year in question, and in the immediately preceding five years, the most meritorious contributions to experimental chemistry, and who has not, at the date of publication, attained the age of thirty-six. If, in the opinion of the Council, two or more candidates are of equal merit, a medal may be awarded to each and the prize divided equally between them. Copies of the rules of the award can be obtained from the General Secretary of the Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1. Applications or recommendations in respect of the year 1964 must be received not later than December 31, 1965, and applications for 1965 are due before the end of 1966.

Royal Society Leverhulme Visiting Professors to India

IN 1962 the Royal Society and the Leverhulme Trust announced the establishment of a scheme for the appointment of two visiting professors in universities or research institutions in India each year for a period of about four months.