in the University of Hong Kong had been formed only just before the Second World War, though chemistry, physics and mathematics had been taught earlier within the Faculty of Arts. The newly created Faculty had its first meeting on July 4, 1939. Development was interrupted in December 1941 by the invasion of Hong Kong, when the University was forced to close. It did not re-open until 1946 and had to start again almost from scratch. In this vital phase of re-establishment and expansion he played an important part. He planned a new chemistry building, completed in 1953 and described in the *Proceedings of the Chemical Society* in 1958, which has proved one of the University's finest buildings. He was able also to resume his research activities. Perhaps his main contributions were nevertheless in the exercise of his flair for clear thinking, clear presentation of views, and as an administrator. He was elected dean of the Faculty of Science in November 1950 and held office continually until November 1959. His talents as an author were particularly helpful in his duties as chairman of the Board of the University of Hong Kong Press. His valuable services were, however, by no means confined within the University. He acted several times as external examiner in the University of Malaya. He took also a great interest in extra-mural affairs. He served as a Justice of the Peace. He served also on the Hong Kong Government Pharmacy Board and Dangerous Goods Committee. He was a Fellow of St. John's College in the University and a member of the Council of St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong. His notable contributions to all aspects of University life led the Senate to confer on him the title of emeritus professor on his retirement.

Despite poor health, retirement did not end his professional career entirely. He continued to revise his books, and the University of Hong Kong was very glad to have his continued service as its representative in the United Kingdom. He retired to Hampshire, where country life and the devoted care of his wife brought back a measure of health and the ability to sustain his professional and other interests.

J. Miller

NEWS and VIEWS

Director-General of the Meteorological Office : Sir Graham Sutton, F.R.S.

Sir Graham Sutton, who will be retiring from his position as director-general of the Meteorological Office on September 30, was appointed head of the Office in 1953 after unusually varied experience in Government Science: superintendent of research at the Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment, Porton; superintendent, Tank Armament Research; chief superintendent, Radar Research and Development Establishment, Malvern; and latterly as Bashforth professor of mathematical physics and dean of the Royal Military College of Science. His personal scientific reputation rested on his pioneer researches in diffusion and other problems of the Earth's atmospheric boundary layer, consolidated by his textbook *Micrometeorology*, which appeared first in 1953 and has become the standard text. Under his direction the Meteorological Office has undergone numerous changes towards meeting its primary task of providing a national meteorological service, its hitherto dispersed headquarters have been unified at its new and impressive scientific and administrative centre at Bracknell, Berkshire, and Weather Centres, open to the public, have appeared in a number of cities; but perhaps the large development of the research side of the Office, to the status of a directorate employing some sixty research scientists with high-speed computers and other modern facilities to match, will come to be regarded as his most far-reaching innovation. He leaves the Meteorological Office as a well-founded, up-to-date, scientific institution. Fortunately, in his new post as first chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council (*Nature*, 205, 748; 206, 873; 1965) his wide experience and proved ability will continue to be devoted to the benefit of science for some time to come.

Prof. B. J. Mason, professor of cloud physics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology (*Nature*, 188, 781; 1960), has been appointed to succeed Sir Graham Sutton as director-general of the Meteorological Office.

Controller in the Ministry of Technology: Dr. J. B. Adams, C.M.G., F.R.S.

The Minister of Technology, the Right Hon. Frank Cousins, has appointed Dr. J. B. Adams, director of the Culham Laboratory of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, to be controller in the Ministry of Technology. In addition to his duties with the Ministry, Dr. Adams will continue to direct the work of the Culham Laboratory.

John Bertram Adams, who is forty-five years of age, entered Siemens Research Laboratory from Eltham College. He was employed between 1940 and 1945 in the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern, and afterwards in the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell. During 1953–61 he served with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) at Geneva, for the last fifteen months as director-general. As director of the Proton Synchrotron Division, he was responsible for the design and installation of the highly successful 28-GeV proton synchrotron which is the major equipment of the laboratory. In 1961 he rejoined the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority as director of the newly established Culham Laboratory. Dr. Adams was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1962. He was awarded the honorary degree of D.Sc. by the University of Geneva in 1960 and by the University of Birmingham in 1961. Dr. Adams was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1963.

Mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology : Prof. G. E. H. Reuter

Prof. G. E. H. Reuter has been appointed professor of mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology from October 1965. For the past six years he has been professor of pure mathematics at the University of Durham. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, he took up his first appointment, in the Scientific Civil Service, in 1941. In 1946 he moved to the University of Manchester where he was made senior lecturer in 1955. His research has been chiefly concerned with the analytic theory of Markov chains. The development of a population of any kind may be viewed as a random process and a Markov chain may be thought of as a far-reaching generalization of such a process. While Prof. Reuter has, for example, made a study of competition between insect populations, his most important work concerns the theory of general Markov chains. In the case of populations, one assumes known the birth and death rates at the possible population sizes and attempts to deduce various aspects of the population behaviour from these. To solve the analogous problems in general is perhaps the main aim of Markov chain theory. Prof. Reuter has shown that operator theory is a natural tool for tackling