

national Practical Temperature Scale of 1968, died on March 12, at the age of sixty-one.

Mr Barber's entire career was spent at the National Physical Laboratory. Joining it 44 years ago in a junior grade, he studied part-time for a degree and graduated in 1932. His early work was on the establishment and reproducibility of the 1927 International Temperature Scale at high temperatures. During the war he was involved in a range of difficult practical problems of temperature measurement. For example, he established that the rotating blades in the early Whittle jet engine were operating at unexpectedly high temperatures, a factor contributing to blade fracture. His interest in a "quick-immersion" thermocouple technique for measuring the temperature of molten steel led to his publishing extensive reference tables, still in use today, for platinum/platinum-rhodium thermocouples.

In the late 1940s Barber was appointed a member of the Consultative Committee for Thermometry (one of the advisory committees of the International Committee of Weights and Measures). In the following years he demonstrated, for example, the greater reproducibility of temperature at the triple point of water compared with the ice point; this led to the triple point being adopted internationally as the single defining point of the temperature scale. He designed a new platinum resistance thermometer of low time-constant and excellent stability, and played a major part in developing an improved form of Smith bridge, a bridge for the measurement of the resistance of platinum resistance thermometers. Copies of the new bridge were subsequently installed in numerous standardizing laboratories throughout the world.

Although Barber was to become increasingly involved in international comparisons and in committee work, both at national and international level, he remained active in experimental studies. For example, in 1955 he started a programme leading to the establishment of a low temperature scale based on helium gas thermometry. This work and related studies elsewhere provided the basis for the extension of the International Scale downward from 90.18 K to 13.81 K in the IPTS-1968. In the last few years Barber headed a research section at the NPL active on a wide range of studies in thermometry and related fields. He was awarded, in 1969, the Callendar Medal of the Institute of Measurement and Control in recognition of his life-time's work in thermometry.

Unassuming by nature, always friendly and helpful, Barber was a man

who was universally liked and highly regarded and whose death is a great loss to the subject of thermometry. His wife survives him.

Announcements

University News

Professor K. Keohane, Chelsea College of Science and Technology, has been appointed Royal Society Leverhulme visiting professor to the *Universidade Federale da Bahia*, Brazil.

Professor R. I. Mateles, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed professor of applied microbiology at the *Hebrew University—Hadassah Medical School*, Jerusalem, and director of the Fermentation Unit, which is operated jointly by the University and by the Israeli Government.

Professor J. N. Walton, professor of neurology in the Department of Medicine, has been appointed dean of medicine in the *University of Newcastle upon Tyne*.

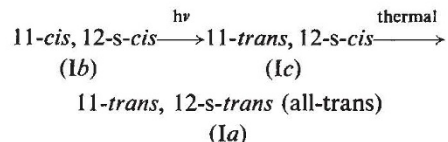
Miscellaneous

Dr Ira E. Puddington, director of the Division of Chemistry, National Research Council, Ottawa, has been awarded the Montreal medal of the *Chemical Institute of Canada*. The Institute's Merck Sharp and Dohme lecture award has been won by **Dr J. B. Stothers**, University of Western Ontario.

The Symons memorial gold medal of the *Royal Meteorological Society* has been awarded to **Mr J. S. Sawyer**, director of research, Meteorological Office, for his contributions to synoptic and dynamical meteorology. The Fitzroy prize has been awarded to **Dr R. C. Rainey**, the L. F. Richardson prize jointly to **Dr A. J. Gadd** and **J. F. Keers**, and the Darton prize to **Dr W. T. Roach**.

CORRIGENDUM. In the article "Late Australopithecine from Baringo District, Kenya" by J. Carney, A. Hill, J. A. Miller and A. Walker (*Nature*, **230**, 509; 1971), the comments on tooth wear (p. 514) should read as follows: "M² has only the tips of the metacone and hypocone worn, and M³, although fully formed, is unerupted".

ERRATUM. In the article "Implications of Torsional Potential of Retinal Isomers for Visual Excitation" by B. Honig and M. Karplus (*Nature*, **229**, 558; 1971), the following corrections should be made. The second sentence in the fourth paragraph of the first column of p. 560 should read: "...; the calculated values are -2,016 cm⁻¹ relative to the distorted 11-*cis*, 12-*s-cis* retinal and ...". The fourth sentence of the same paragraph should read: "The series of reactions



would correspond to the observed changes in the visual pigment spectrum ...". In the caption of Fig. 1, the second sentence should read: "... with respect to rotation about C₁₀-C₁₁ and C₁₁-C₁₂; ...". In text figure (a), the H at positions 9 and 13 should read CH₃, and in text figure (b) the CH at position 13 should read CH₃.

British Diary

Monday, May 10

High-Frequency Cables (5.30 p.m.) Professor H. E. M. Barlow, University of London, in the Botany Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

Some New Observations on the Pathology and Immunology of Mucous Membrane Infections with Particular Reference to *Bordetella pertussis* (5 p.m.) Dr L. B. Holt, University of London, at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Wright-Fleming Institute, Norfolk Place, London W2.

The Future Development of Power Semiconductor Switching (2.30 p.m. discussion) Institution of Electrical Engineers, at Savoy Place, London WC2.

The Scope of Zoology (5 p.m.) Professor D. Bellamy, University College Cardiff, in the Botany Lecture Theatre, Main College Building, University College, Cathays Park, Cardiff. (Inaugural Lecture.)

Tuesday, May 11

Quantum Electrodynamics and other Fields (5.30 p.m.) Professor T. W. B. Kibble, University of London, in Lecture Theatre A (Mechanical Engineering), Imperial College of Science and Technology, London SW7.

Social Policy in Drug Dependence (8 p.m.) Professor Morton Miller, Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, jointly with the Society for the Study of Addiction, at the Botany Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

Some Contributions of Radioautography to the Cytochemistry of the Aminergic Neurons (5.30 p.m.) Professor J. Taxi, University of London, in the Anatomy Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

Some Observations on Badgers under Controlled Conditions, Mr P. Drabble; **The Ecology of the Adder**, Mr Ian Prestt; **The Seals of Macquarie Island** (film) Zoological Society of London, at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1.