

appointments, he joined the Standard Oil Co. (N.J.), in 1927, when he became research director of the newly established Esso Laboratories at Baton Rouge, La. Here he initiated research on the hydrogenation process and the manufacture of synthetic products from petroleum. Mr. Russell is now directing research on new and improved uses for crude oil, the production of liquid fuels from coal and natural gas, and the development of improved synthetic rubbers and plastics.

#### Institution of Electrical Engineers : Honorary Member

THE Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers has elected Sir John Macfarlane Kennedy, past president, to be an honorary member of the Institution, in recognition of his distinguished work in the sphere of electricity supply and of the services rendered by him to the Institution. Sir John was at Trinity College, Cambridge, and also went to Zurich Polytechnic. He served his pupillage with Richard Moreland and Sons, London, Willans and Robinson, Rugby, and Siemens-Halske, Berlin. During 1902-34 he was a partner in the firm of Kennedy and Donkin, and was engaged in electricity supply, distribution and traction works. In 1922 he submitted to the Electricity Commissioners proposals for the reorganisation of electricity supply in Great Britain, and eventually prepared a report for the Ministry of Transport on the reorganisation of electricity supply. In 1934 he took office with the Electricity Commission, of which he is now deputy-chairman.

#### Faraday Medal

THE Faraday Medal of the Institution has been awarded to Sir Standen Leonard Pearce, for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of engineering practice and notable achievements in electrical engineering. Sir Leonard Pearce was educated at Bishops Stortford College and Finsbury Technical College, London. He served his pupillage with J. G. Statter and Co. at West Drayton, and Thomas Richardson and Sons of Hartlepool. After occupying various posts, he was appointed in 1903 to be chief engineer to Manchester Corporation Electricity Undertaking; in 1926 he became engineer-in-chief of the London Power Co.

#### Prof. F. J. W. Roughton, F.R.S.

DR. F. J. W. ROUGHTON, who succeeds Prof. E. K. Rideal in the John Humphrey Plummer professorship of colloid science in the University of Cambridge, is a physiologist admirably qualified to deal with the border-line between biological and physical science. Since his election to a fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1923, his researches have been concerned with the carriage of gases by the blood and with the physical chemistry of the blood pigments. His best-known work is that begun with Meldrum on the enzyme carbonic anhydrase, which plays an important part in the transport of carbon dioxide from the tissues to the lungs. Physical chemists will remember also the ingenious methods which he used with Hartridge to study the rapid rate of combination of oxygen with hæmoglobin. Largely as the result of his work, the complex interchanges between the corpuscles and the plasma in the lung capillaries are far more clearly understood. His wide knowledge of physico-chemical techniques and of their application

to biological problems has made him an authority in a field which is rapidly becoming one of the growing points in natural science; and physiologists will wish him every success in an appointment which will give full scope to his talent for reducing biological equations to measurable terms.

#### Human Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine : Prof. B. S. Platt, C.M.G.

THE increasing importance attached to the scientific study of nutrition is reflected in the appointment of Dr. B. S. Platt as professor of human nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Platt will continue to hold, in conjunction with the chair, his present post as director of the Medical Research Council's Research Unit of Human Nutrition, at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London. His appointment is thus also another welcome sign of the growing readiness of universities to elect to professorial rank those whose duties are primarily in research; under the old system a professor was too often so fully occupied with teaching as to have little time left for research. Dr. Platt graduated in the School of Chemistry at Leeds in 1923. He engaged in research there under the late Prof. J. B. Cohen, was elected to a Beit Memorial Fellowship in 1926, and became medically qualified in 1930. During 1932-38 he was attached to the Division of Clinical Research of the Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research at Shanghai, as associate in medicine, and in 1932 was the author of the B.M.A. "Bishop Harman Prize Essay" on "The Importance of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> for Maternal Health in Pregnancy and Lactation". In 1938 he was appointed to the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council, and since 1944 has been director of the Council's Human Nutrition Research Unit.

Dr. Platt has served as a nutritional expert on a considerable number of government committees, including the Scientific Food Policy Committee, the Committee for the Care of Shipwrecked Personnel, the Rations Sub-committee of the Military Personnel Research Committee, and the United Kingdom Delegation to the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conferences; and in his work he has travelled widely, including visits to West and East African territories, Newfoundland and the West Indies. In 1944, he gave the De Lamar Lecture in hygiene at the Johns Hopkins University. He has published a considerable number of papers, dealing mostly with biochemical studies on water-soluble vitamins, his best known work perhaps being that with Miss Lu on the blood pyruvate in vitamin B<sub>1</sub> deficiency in man.

#### Prof. Frank Horton, F.R.S.

THE recent retirement of Prof. Frank Horton from the University chair of physics which he has held at the Royal Holloway College (University of London) since 1914 brings to an end an active teaching career lasting more than forty years. That career really falls into two parts, Cambridge and London, though it should be mentioned that he received his earlier training at Birmingham, of which University he holds the degree of M.Sc. At Cambridge, as a lecturer at the Cavendish Laboratory in the days of J. J. Thomson, he formed one of that brilliant team of young physicists comparable in their way with those other teams in other spheres during the same epoch, namely, 'Cromer's young men' in Egypt and the Sudan, and 'Milner's young men' in South Africa. An early

election to a fellowship of the Royal Society placed a hallmark on the value of his contributions to the field of science in which he specialized.

Prof. Horton went to London in 1914. There, in addition to his teaching and research work, he soon entered into the inner circles of university administration, culminating in 1939 with his election as vice-chancellor. He continued to hold this high and arduous office throughout the War. To quote the words used by the principal of the University in his latest report: "No period of its history was more fraught with danger for the University than these six years, danger not only of physical destruction but of spiritual disintegration. Under the emergency measures which were taken to carry on the work of the University, the Vice-Chancellor was entrusted with wide powers. They were used with the utmost discretion and judgment. Professor Horton enjoyed none of the pomp and pageantry which fall to the lot of the Vice-Chancellor in normal times, but he must surely feel that the widespread and sincere tributes paid to his exceptional services afford some measure of compensation." The Senate, realizing that his term of office as a faculty representative was drawing to a close, paid tribute to the debt which it owed to his services by electing him as one of its co-opted members.

#### National Institute of Sciences of India: Elections

THE following have been elected ordinary fellows of the National Institute of Sciences of India: Mr. S. Basu, deputy director general (forecasting), Poona, distinguished for his work in weather forecasting; Dr. U. P. Basu, chief chemist, Bengal Immunity Co., Ltd., Calcutta, distinguished for his work in chemotherapy; Mr. J. Coates, senior geologist, Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., Digboi, distinguished for his work in geology; Dr. G. Krishnamurti, assistant director, Department of Chemotherapy, Haffkine Institute, Bombay, distinguished for his work on Indian medicinal plants; Dr. B. S. Kadam, Central Tobacco Research Station, Guntur, distinguished for his work in genetics and plant breeding; Prof. D. D. Kosambi, professor of mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, distinguished for his work in path geometry and statistics; Mr. V. Khanolkar, director of laboratories, Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, distinguished for his work in human pathology; Dr. D. R. Malhotra, B.B. and C.I. Railway, Ajmer, distinguished for his work in metallurgical chemistry; Dr. B. Mundkur, mycologist, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, distinguished for his work in systematic mycology; Dr. B. Narayana, professor of physiology, Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna, distinguished for his work in physiology; Dr. B. P. Pal, economic botanist, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, distinguished for his work in genetics and plant breeding; Dr. V. G. Panse, statistician, Institute of Plant Industry, Indore, distinguished for his work on the application of statistical methods of plant breeding; Dr. P. B. Sarkar, senior research chemist, Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta, distinguished for his work on the chemistry of jute; Dr. B. N. Srivastava, Physics Department, University of Allahabad, distinguished for his work in thermodynamics; Dr. L. C. Verman, director of physical laboratories, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi, distinguished for his work in applied physics.

#### Geological Society Awards

THE Council of the Geological Society announces the following awards:

Wollaston Medal to Dr. Joseph Burr Tyrrell, for his services to geological science in the Dominion of Canada, more particularly his pioneer work on the Barren Lands west of Hudson Bay and on the gold-fields of Klondyke and Kirkland Lake.

Murchison Medal to Mr. Percy Evans, in recognition of his researches on the oilfields of Burma and Assam, and his work on the geological interpretation of gravitational surveys.

Lyell Medal to Dr. Stanley Smith, for his researches on Palaeozoic corals, particularly their structure and relationships, and for his investigations into Lower Palaeozoic and Carboniferous stratigraphy.

Bigsby Medal to Dr. George Hoole Mitchell, for his geological investigations in the Lake District and his work on the coalfields of Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Wollaston Fund to Dr. Austin William Woodland, for his work on the Cambrian rocks of Merionethshire and on the water supply of the Midlands and East Anglia.

Murchison Fund to Dr. Duncan Leitch, in recognition of his studies of the Carboniferous stratigraphy of Scotland and his investigations of the lamellibranch faunas of the Scottish coalfields.

A moiety of the Lyell Fund to Dr. Leslie Rowsell Moore, for his investigations of Upper Carboniferous faunas and floras of the Bristol, Somerset and South Wales coalfields; another moiety of the Lyell Fund to Mr. Claude William Wright, for his work on the faunas of the Cretaceous rocks of southern England and the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire wolds.

#### Physical Society's Proposed Acoustics Group

A MEETING of those interested in the formation of an Acoustics Group of the Physical Society will be held in the Jarvis Hall of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London, W.1, at 3 p.m. on February 19. Mr. H. L. Kirke, head of the B.B.C. Research Department, will be in the chair, and Dr. Alex Wood will give an address on "The Contribution of Acoustical Science to Allied Studies". It is hoped to arrange an informal exhibition of recent acoustical apparatus. The agenda for the meeting will include a general discussion of the proposal to form such a group, the election of a chairman and officers, and the adoption of a set of rules. Those interested should send their names, indicating whether they will be able to attend the meeting, to the acting secretaries, Mr. A. T. Pickles and Mr. W. A. Allen, at the office of the Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

#### Recenti Progressi in Medicina

THE appearance of the first issue (dated October 1946) of *Recenti Progressi in Medicina*, a monthly review of international medical and surgical literature, published in Rome under the directorship of Giuseppe Lazzaro, supported by some twenty-eight collaborators, is an interesting development of post-war medical activity in Italy. This first issue, which owes much to the advice and experience of Prof. Giuseppe Bastianelli, to whom the editor pays a warm tribute, is mainly devoted to a review of recent progress in our knowledge of the various types of inflammation of the lungs. It deals not only with the types of pneumonia caused by bacteria, but also with in-