

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

NEWS

Issued by the Registrar for private circulation to members of the staff, fellows and scholars of the University.

No. 4.

July, 1950.

HOUSING AND OTHER CONDITIONS IN CANBERRA

The University can now point to the first of its Professors to be resident in Canberra—Professor W. R. Crocker of the Chair of International Relations, who arrived here in June. Professor Swan and Mr. H. P. Brown were already residents when their appointments took formal effect on 1st July, as was Mr. W. D. Borrie who had moved from Sydney late in May. During this year and next this movement will grow in pace, with Professor Oliphant, now on the water, arriving in August, Professor Sawyer and Dr. Stanner in September, Mr. L. C. Webb and Mr. C. P. Fitzgerald towards the end of 1950, followed in the early months of 1951 by Professors Nadel, Davidson and Titterton and Mr. L. F. Fitzhardinge. At the same time the move of the library from Melbourne to Canberra has commenced; it will be in full working order at Acton by December.

Inevitably many eyes are turned, enquiringly, towards this city.

It is perhaps strange that enquiries mostly concern housing and schools. Rather more searching enquiry on other lines altogether might have been expected, eliciting, for example, the information that Canberra has no art gallery (other than a good collection of war pictures); it has no civic orchestra but relies on visiting performances from Sydney and Melbourne; there are no night clubs.

Canberra must surprise newcomers from the old world, to whom we cannot deny that conditions still require the display of just a little of the pioneering spirit so remarkable in earliest immigrants to these shores of the mid-nineteenth century.

The city lies in an upland valley, and is dominated by a friendly triangle of hills—Red Hill, Mount Ainslie and Black Mountain. Beyond these in every direction are the Alps which crown Canberra in a perpetual glory of changing colour.

Within the city, divided in two by the Molonglo River, the government has been careful to enhance the natural beauty of the site by the planting of almost continuous parks and gardens; there are no trams or trains through the city; no heavy industries; there is a sense of space, of peace and at certain seasons of almost incredible beauty.

It is not yet a large city (19,000 population) but has perhaps more than its share of interesting people—as residents and as visitors.

Aerial transport services are very good indeed; planes each day arrive or take off for Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide. Flying time by DC3 to Sydney is 70 minutes, and the fare £2/10/-; to Melbourne two hours; faster planes reduce these times considerably.

In winter, ski country is 30 miles by road. The golf course is excellent, and most other games have their adherents. On the whole the schools are very good and have admirable facilities.

Any diffidence in commending life in Canberra would be because of the difficulty of interpreting the problems experienced by wives in shopping, care of children, dealings with tradesmen and the like. Shopping facilities are becoming better, but most women still like to make a sortie for clothes in Sydney or Melbourne once or twice a year. There are a number of play centres for young children, and one lives close enough to one's own circle of friends to find "baby-minding" arrangements quite easy to work out.

The cost of living in Canberra is somewhat higher than in other Australian cities, but the cost of living adjustment on salaries takes some account of this. It would not be higher than in the United Kingdom though, whereas taxation is somewhat lighter.

The problems of accommodation which face those who contemplate removal to Canberra are considerable and must not be glossed over. They are not greater than the similar difficulties experienced by Australians setting themselves up in the United Kingdom, as Mr. Ernest Clark well knows, having had to attend his office in London from his home in Bournemouth. Our scholars and fellows report the same difficulties, and rents for newcomers are in no case as reasonable as those faced by people already established since before the war in low-rent homes.

Nevertheless the National University, if it wishes to set up its departments at all quickly, must help to solve these problems and the Interim Council has, in fact, shouldered a much greater proportion of the responsibility for housing staff and assisting in the heavy expenditure of moving than any other University or research institution.

There are several matters of interest to readers which can be reviewed here:

- (a) Study and laboratory space and other services.
- (b) Dwellings.
- (c) Rent.
- (d) The cost of removal.

Working Accommodation

As the Vice-Chancellor has mentioned in these pages on other occasions, priority on the list of works needed for the new University has been accorded to residential accommodation and to specialist laboratory facilities. The laboratories for Physics and Medicine have called for a great deal of care at the planning stage and whilst Professor Oliphant's buildings are now well under way, the Medical buildings are still on the drawing board. Sir Howard Florey, Dr. Sanders and Professor Albert will in fact arrive in Canberra whilst this article is in the press, for a series of conferences at which the Council hopes the Medical building will take final form.

One of the Old Hospital buildings—in the centre of the University site and of about 10,000 square feet—has just recently been made available for the library; some 35,000 books, the large periodical collection and the present staff will be moved there progressively until the library is wholly in Canberra in December.

Other sections of these buildings have become available, too, for the first arrivals in the Schools of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies; these rooms are of solid pre-war frame and fibre construction, but are being re-decorated and in any case are blessed with steam heating. They also accommodate temporary offices and a small laboratory for the Research School of Physical Sciences which will be used as the School's headquarters until a move into the new building is possible.

Living Quarters

University House, when ready, will take care—very adequately—of single members of staff and students. Its praises have been sung before; it is now possible to ascend a number of staircases in the North Wing to third floor level, and to roam, certainly at some risk, among the rooms. Nevertheless, it will be mid-1951 before sufficient of it is completed to permit opening, and until then unmarried members of staff will be accommodated in government-owned hostels, when they are unable to make private arrangements. Hostels vary; the newer ones are very good indeed. The present rates for room and board range from £2/10/- to £3/10/- per week, but are likely to rise substantially. Hotel accommodation, on a permanent basis, is almost out of the question owing to the demands of Parliament when in session.

There is a great deal of house construction in Canberra, but the lag is very great indeed; at present a public servant earmarked for transfer to Canberra would wait nearly three years before the government could offer him a house. Of course, many manage to make private arrangements for flats or houses privately owned and others are brave enough to take on themselves the worries of building.

The University is not able to make much use of the government's housing list, for houses from it are allotted in strict order of place on the list. Special priority has been successfully argued for an odd house or two, but the University must itself find the majority of the 100 dwellings it needs to have before the end of next year.

Some houses and flats it has bought in the open market, even though a sense of responsibility in the expenditure of funds derived from the public dictates a conservative approach to present day property values. This problem is an appreciable one, for current building costs in Canberra of a modest brick home are three times ruling rates pre-war.

A number of houses are being built, and arrangements are being made for the building of flats. None of these buildings will be other than a modest suburban type cottage or flat, well constructed, with the more common modern appliances—electric stove, water-heater etc. Some houses are equipped with hot water storage systems, but government houses usually have the "instantaneous" type heaters.

Houses are usually well back from the street on pleasant sections of not less than seventy feet width. Berry, privet and pine hedges in front separate allotments from the street and neighbours, with paling fences at the back.

Houses are most commonly in brick—frequently cement rendered and painted or stucco. Interior designs, of course, vary; but there are not many Canberra houses of more than three bedrooms, living room, dining room and the usual conveniences. Most houses have a central hall.

Houses constructed before the war are, generally speaking, more roomy and more conveniently equipped with cupboards than the newer ones where cost has tended to shave down room sizes and other frills. Overall areas commonly vary between 1,000 and 1,400 square feet.

Very few homes in Canberra are centrally heated, but wood is, generally speaking, freely available and reasonably priced.

Multiple dwelling units in the form of terraces are unknown; gardens are attractive: a choice of trees and shrubs ready for planting is offered by the government nursery—this year each householder was given twenty.

As it becomes possible the University will raise the building standards, especially for houses on the site where a high standard of design and construction will be insisted upon. It will also consider requests for houses to be built on the member's design providing a builder and a reasonable contract can be secured.

Rents

Rents of government houses at present vary between £2 per week and a little more than £3, although some adjustments downward in the rents of newer houses are at present being made. These rents do, however, include all rates and maintenance—internal as well as external; a very good maintenance service indeed is provided.

Rents of University-owned properties are likely to be higher, but the following three general principles are at present applicable:—

- (a) Rents are assessed to cover interest, amortisation, rates and repairs.
- (b) A member is not expected to pay more than a reasonable rent, having in mind the size of his family and his income, but would be offered a dwelling at a lower rental when available.
- (c) A member whose duty required him to live on the University site would not be required to pay a higher rental than he could afford.

Where a member of staff has had to store his furniture and take a furnished house temporarily, the University helps him to meet the additional cost.

Removal Expenses

This is another matter of considerable importance, especially to the younger applicants for positions. We have found in some cases that the quoted cost for removing furniture to Canberra, especially from abroad, was really more than the furniture was worth.

For members of staff coming from abroad, the University pays first-class or tourist class fares, according to grading, and contemplates paying for the removal of valuable belongings. It is unwilling, though, for this cost to exceed £200, but is working out a scheme to assist those who feel it wiser to sell most of their belongings—at some sacrifice—and purchase anew in Australia.

—R.A.H.



SIR DOUGLAS COPLAND

Everyone connected with the University received with great joy the news that H.M. the King had, in his birthday honours list created the Vice-Chancellor a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

This is not perhaps the place for a detailed exposition of Sir Douglas's achievements. Enough to say that few have served Australia as he has. Scholar, administrator, and diplomat, his contributions to Australian

University life have been matched by his influence in the public affairs of the Commonwealth. Ever since his arrival from New Zealand more than thirty years ago, he has worked with unexcelled vigour and far-sightedness at tasks where hazards were to be faced and major destinies moulded. It is a happy thing indeed that this very distinguished honour falls on him at a time when he is in the midst of a work which will be far from the least of his claims to the gratitude of all Australians. The members of the University join a multitude of his other friends in offering to him and to Lady Copland their affectionate congratulations.

JOHN STANLEY GOODEN

Dr. J. S. Gooden, Research Fellow in the Research School of Physical Sciences, died in Adelaide on 9th June, at the age of 30 years. The University joins with his family in mourning the loss of a distinguished scholar and a lovable man.

In a message published in Adelaide after Dr. Gooden's death, Professor Oliphant said:

"It is very seldom that any University produces a scientist with the outstanding ability of John Gooden. The University of Adelaide and South Australia are poorer as a result of the loss of so distinguished a son.

John Gooden joined me in Birmingham as a Nuffield Research Fellow in Physics in 1946. He came with very high commendations from his former chief in the radiophysics laboratory in Sydney and his work since that time has shown clearly that he was a scientist of the highest quality.

He rapidly established himself as the leader of the team working out the principles and design for a very large protonsynchrotron under construction here, and made outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of accelerator design.

His enthusiasm carried the work forward at an increasing pace. During a short visit to the United States in 1947 he was readily accepted there as a leading exponent of the newer ideas in nuclear physics. His all-round ability as both experimenter and mathematician made Birmingham a centre of knowledge, which was

visited by scientists from all over the world who wished to discuss problems with him.

One of the examiners of his thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy wrote to say that the thesis was the best he had ever read, 'a truly magnificent piece of work.'

John Gooden never enjoyed the best of health and his work was done despite physical handicaps. He and his wife took part in the social activities of the Laboratory, and through their fine personality and simple humanity became beloved of us all.

He was an inspiring leader of a team and the work here will suffer greatly with his loss. The effort he put into the synchrocyclotron was just about to bear fruit when he died, and we all regret that he can take no part in its operation.

The Australian National University appointed Gooden to a Research Fellowship in the School of Physical Sciences, and I looked upon him as the pre-eminent member of the team which will assemble there in the next two years. It is certain that he would have done great things there for physical science and for Australia.

We shall mourn him, but we shall be inspired by him, and can only try to carry further the brilliant work he had begun.

The motto of the University of Birmingham is "Per ardua ad alta," and John Gooden, one of its most distinguished graduates, lived his life in that spirit."

INTERIM COUNCIL BUSINESS

41st meeting, 9th June, 1950.

42nd meeting, 14th July, 1950.

Council Membership

The Governor General has now appointed Professor Oliphant a member of the Interim Council. Professor Martin has been given leave from the Interim Council for four months, during which time he will be abroad.

Statutes — Ph.D. degree, etc.

The Interim Council has asked its Statutes Committee to prepare and comment on draft statutes concerning the establishment of the eventual Council, the founding of Convocation, the enrolment of students and Graduate Studies, and such other matters as now need the conferring of degrees, the creation of the Board of to be made the subject of legislation. On the question of the Ph.D. degree the Council has had the benefit of detailed advice from the Academic Advisory Committee as to the entrance qualifications of candidates and the requirements for graduation.

Academic Advisory Committee

The Council will shortly discuss with Sir Howard Florey and Professor Oliphant the future role of the Academic Advisory Committee. The Council is anxious to have the continued advice of the Committee as such, as well as of its remaining members in their capacity of Advisers to the Schools of Medical Research, Social Sciences and Pacific Studies.

Acton Offices

The larger part of the old hospital buildings on the University site has now been secured, by a decision of the Cabinet, for University purposes in accordance with undertakings given to the University in 1947, and in the face of recent competing claims. Members of the staff are already occupying some of the space there, and the Library will, as mentioned elsewhere, now begin to move to Canberra.

Vice-Chancellor's Visit to India

After consultation with the Council, the Vice-Chancellor has accepted the invitation of the Government of India to visit India, and confer with University leaders and educational administrators. Sir Douglas will leave Australia on 16th October and return on 6th December, 1950. He will be accompanied on the tour by his Secretary, Miss Joan Morrish.

Staff Removal Expenses

The Council is concerned to evolve an equitable arrangement for contributing towards the removal expenses of members of the staff coming from abroad to take up duty in Canberra, and is now examining this question in detail.

Salaries

A good deal of work has been done in preparation for a review of some salary ranges by the Council. The Finance Committee reported some tentative views it had reached on this subject to the July Council Meeting.

Publication of Research Papers

For some time the Council has had in mind the necessity of providing the means of prompt and efficient publication of research material emanating from the University. An expert assessment of Australian facilities for learned publication has been obtained and considered by the Academic Advisory Committee, and the Council is now investigating the possibility of a publishing arrangement, at any rate for the time being, with an existing University Press. The Council has decided that the expenses of typing research manuscripts by members of the staff for publication should be borne by the University.

Fees for Specialised Courses

The Council has resolved that where officers of the technical staff, and other University officers below the rank of Research Fellow, are required to take advanced courses in connection with their University duties, the University will pay their fees.

Social Philosophy

The Council is making enquiries in connection with an appointment to the Chair of Social Philosophy.

Academic Dress

The University has obtained from Dr. C. A. H. Franklyn, an English authority on academic robes, a detailed preliminary report of the steps which might be taken to select academic dress for the University. The

Council has appointed a Committee on Ceremonial to consider this question.

Medical Examination of Staff.

The Council has resolved that persons selected for appointment to the University staff should be required to submit a certificate from a medical practitioner designated by the University.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

University House

In the previous edition of "News" reference was made to the extent to which the shortage of building materials, particularly bricks, was retarding the progress of University buildings generally. Since then there has been a very great improvement, the allocation of bricks for University House having been increased from 18,000 to 30,000 per week. This is a major achievement and, with the increasing use of substitute materials such as concrete blocks, it is confidently expected that the construction of University House will proceed at a much quicker rate than had been expected hitherto.

About 85 per cent. of the brickwork of the North Wing is completed and roofing timbers are erected over 50 per cent. of that section. The tiles are on the site and tiling will be commenced any day now. Considerable progress has also been made in the internal plastering of that Wing. The West Wing is up to first floor level and the Dining Block is also under construction.

In case it is found necessary to occupy the building before it is finally completed the Interim Council has made arrangements for the North Wing and Dining Block to receive first priority.

Such matters as the sculptural treatment and interior decoration of University House are being dealt with by the Council.

Buildings for Research School of Physical Sciences

The rate of progress on these buildings has been disappointing and it is only very recently that the excavations of the Accelerator Block were completed. Fabrication of the structural steelwork has begun and it is understood that the manufacture of the two electric overhead travelling cranes is well up to schedule.

Buildings for the John Curtin School of Medical Research

There have been no further developments since the previous issue of "News" but by the time that this edition is in the hands of our readers important discussions will have taken place with Sir Howard Florey and his advisers.

Publicity for Buildings Plans

In recent months the University's building plans have been made the subject of articles in various Australian journals and daily newspapers. The April issue of "Architecture," which is the Journal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, contained a very comprehensive article with several illustrations, and similar reports have appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" and the Melbourne "Herald."

GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Scholarships

The Council has now passed the following resolution about the extension of scholarships tenures:—

"Although the normal tenure of a scholarship is two years the Interim Council will consider in special cases the extension of a scholar's tenure for a third year or part thereof if the Director or Adviser of the School concerned is of opinion:—

- (i) That the scholar's work during the first eighteen months of his tenure has been of good quality and promise; and
- (ii) That the research training for which the scholarship was awarded will fall seriously short of achievement should the scholarship be terminated at the end of the second year, but has a good prospect of success if an extension is granted; or
- (iii) That there are other reasons (e.g., the scholar's prospective membership of the staff) which make it desirable in the University's interest that the scholarship be extended."

A scholar wishing to have his tenure extended should apply to the Registrar (or in the case of a scholar in the United Kingdom, to the University's Administrative Officer in the United Kingdom).

Since the last issue of the "News", the following scholars have been granted extensions for the periods shown:—

Mr. J. A. Allen (one year).
 Mr. J. O. Cope (one year).
 Mr. R. A. Gollan (six months).
 Mr. P. G. Klemens (three months).
 Mr. P. Lawrence (one year).
 Dr. J. F. McCrea (one year).
 Mr. D. B. Morell (one year).
 Mr. R. Storry (six months).

The number of scholarships extended during 1950 is now thirteen.

Transfer of Library to Canberra

The acting Librarian, Mr. Noel Stockdale, is planning to move the Library to Canberra and begin full operation here on 4th December, 1950. In the meantime a senior library assistant (Miss M. Lundie) will be stationed in Canberra to receive the material as it arrives, and to provide such library service as is required before December. The Library will occupy as its temporary home the building on the University site recently vacated by the Department of Immigration.

Universities Conference Delegates

The unusually large group of distinguished visitors whom the University will welcome in the next few weeks will include a party of representatives on their way to the Inter-Commonwealth Universities Conference which will be conducted by the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth in New Zealand in August. The representatives who have visited or will visit Canberra are:—

Mr. D. Emrys Evans (Vice-Chancellor, Wales); Dr. D. W. Logan (Principal, London); Sir Philip Morris (Vice-Chancellor, Bristol); Rev. Professor C. E. Raven (Master of Christ's College, Cambridge); Sir Raymond Priestley (Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham); Dr. F. Cyril James (Principal, McGill); Dr. Sidney Smith (President, Toronto); Professor J. T. Irving (Professor of Physiology, Cape Town); Sir A. L. Mudaliar (Vice-Chancellor, Madras); Professor Sinha (Vice-Chancellor, Patna); Dr. S. M. Hossian (Vice-Chancellor, Dacca); and Dr. G. V. Allen (Vice-Chancellor, Malaya).

The main group of these delegates will be in Canberra from 21st to 25th July.

The Secretary of the Association, Dr. J. F. Foster, will visit this and other Australian Universities after the Conference.

Visiting Staff Members and Adviser

Sir Howard Florey, Adviser to the John Curtin School of Medical Research, and **Professor Adrien Albert**, Professor of Medical Chemistry, will arrive from England by air on 24th July for conferences on the medical building plans and other matters. **Dr. A. G. Sanders** arrived by sea on 17th July. During their stay these visitors will confer with the medical professors in Australia, and with **Professor Eccles**, who will arrive from New Zealand on 15th August. They will also hold discussions with the Interim Council at its August meeting.

Other Visiting Scholars

During their tour of the Australian Universities as guests of this University, the following visiting scholars will be in Canberra at the dates shown:—

Professor J. T. Wilson: 3rd-5th August, 20th-27th September.

Mr. J. S. Furnivall: 26th-31st August, 30th October-5th November.

Professor J. B. Condliffe: 19th-24th September.

The University has invited **Professor B. G. Maegraith**, Dean of the School of Tropical Medicine in the University of Liverpool to visit Canberra. Professor Maegraith will deliver a lecture on "The World Conquest of Malaria" on Friday, 28th July, at 8.15 p.m., in the theatre in the old hospital buildings, Acton.

Jubilee Seminars

In connection with the Jubilee of the Commonwealth in 1951, the University proposes to arrange two seminars, one to make a review of the development and prospects of federalism in Australia, and the other to examine the place of the Commonwealth in the development of pure and applied scientific research. The Council has issued invitations to two overseas scholars to visit Australia in connection with each of these gatherings.

STAFF MEMBERS

New Appointments

Mr. T. W. Swan has been appointed first Professor of Economics in the Research School of Social Sciences. Mr. Swan, who is 32, is the youngest professor yet

appointed, and is the second professor in the Social Sciences School. He graduated B.Ec. in Sydney in 1940, with first class honours and the University Medal. After a short period as assistant lecturer in Economics in the University of Sydney, he went to the Commonwealth Department of War Organisation of Industry as Economist, and later became Economic Adviser to the Department.

Since 1946, Mr. Swan has been Chief Economist of the Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and in this period he has had the benefit of extensive overseas experience. In 1947 and 1948 he was attached to the Economic Section of the United Kingdom Cabinet Office, and represented Australia, and sometimes the United Kingdom, at sessions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. In the early part of 1949 he was attached to the President's Council of Economic Advisers in Washington. He is distinguished as well by his published papers as by his notable contributions to war-time and post-war public administration.

Professor Swan is married and has two children. He took up duty on 1st July, 1950, but is at present abroad as a member of the group accompanying the Prime Minister on his overseas tour.

Mr. R. H. Leach, B.Sc. (Adel.) has been appointed Research Assistant to the Professor of Microbiology for two years. He took up duty in Melbourne towards the end of June.

Professor J. C. Eccles, F.R.S., has accepted appointment to the Chair of Physiology in the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Professor Eccles has a world reputation as a research worker and teacher in physiology. He was born in Melbourne, and is 47 years old. At the age of 22 he graduated M.B., B.S., at Melbourne with first class honours, and at the same time was awarded the Victorian Rhodes Scholarship. His early promise was confirmed in his work at Magdalen College, from which he graduated M.A., and later D.Phil. From 1934 to 1937 he was a Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen as well as University Demonstrator in Physiology. In 1937 he returned to Sydney to take up an appointment as Director of the Kanematsu Memorial Institute of Pathology. He continued in this office till 1944, when he was appointed to his present position, that of Professor of Physiology at the University of Otago, Dunedin.

Professor Eccles' international reputation as a research worker is based mainly on his contributions, embodied in a long series of published papers, to fundamental knowledge about the nervous system. In recent years he has experimented with electronic techniques in the investigation of the nature of muscle responses.

Professor Eccles is arranging to remain at the University of Otago until the construction of buildings for the Medical School is further advanced. This will allow him to withdraw gradually from the duties of

his New Zealand Chair, to give thought to the equipping and staffing of his Canberra Department, and gather round him a small team of National University Fellows and scholars for work in Dunedin before his actual move to Canberra, which he hopes to make in 1952.

Dr. R.v.d.R. Woolley has accepted appointment as Honorary Professor of Astronomy in the Research School of Physical Sciences. Dr. Woolley received his early education at Allhallows in England. He studied at the University of Cape Town and at Cambridge, where he took an M.A. and a Ph.D. He worked at Pasadena in California from 1929-31, and from 1933-7 was Chief Assistant to the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich. During the war he was Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Army Inventions Directorate, and a member of the Optical Munitions Panel.

Since 1939 Dr. Woolley has been Director of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mt. Stromlo, near Canberra, and under his directorship the Observatory has attained a world research reputation. He will retain his directorship concurrently with his occupancy of the Chair, and under his guidance students of the University will have the advantage of being able to undertake research training at the Observatory. Dr. Woolley is at present on a short visit to the United States.

The position of Laboratory Manager of the John Curtin School of Medical Research has been filled by the appointment from a very large field of **Mr. A. F. Bunker**. Mr. Bunker has had very extensive engineering and technological training and experience, and is at present an officer of the staff of the High Commissioner for India in London, his duties including the supply of laboratory equipment for universities, research establishments and technical colleges in India. Mr. Bunker is 38, and has a wife and two children.

Mr. D. B. Mather has been offered a Research Fellowship in Geography, and will be the first member of the staff of that Department to be appointed. Mr. Mather is 32 years of age. He was educated at King's College, London, where he graduated in Geography in 1939. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the Royal Navy, and saw active service in many parts of the world. For two years from August 1946, he was lecturer in Geography at Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, and while there conducted research into native immigration into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Since 1948 he has been Lecturer in Geography at King's College, Newcastle.

NEWS AND MOVEMENTS

Professor J. C. Eccles, Professor of Physiology, has been invited to deliver the Waynflete Lectures in Oxford in 1952. Professor Eccles proposes to spend some months abroad in 1952, and to include a visit to the United States.

The Council has recently received reports from **Professor G. Sawyer**, Professor of Law, on his visit to the United Kingdom, and the United States, from **Professor W. R. Crocker** (International Relations) on

his visit to the United States, England and the Continent, and from **Professor R. W. Firth**, Adviser to the Research School of Pacific Studies, on his brief tour of the United States from 24th March to 29th April. While in America, Professor Firth met a large number of scholars interested in research in Pacific and East Asian affairs, and discussed with them the plans for the development of the Research School of Pacific Studies.

Professor M. L. E. Oliphant, Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences, left England on 11th on July, in the "Orcades." He will arrive in Sydney on 11th August, and take up duty in Canberra immediately thereafter. Shortly before he left England Professor Oliphant received a tribute to his thirteen years' work in the University of Birmingham in the form of the conferment of the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by that University. The degree was conferred by Mr. Anthony Eden as Chancellor of the University.

The Council recently conveyed its congratulations to **Professor W. R. Crocker**, Professor of International Relations, on the presentation to him in Adelaide of two Belgian war decorations — the Cross of Officer of the Royal Order of the Lion with Palm, and the Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm, for services rendered to Colonial troops and Belgian fliers in Africa. Professor Crocker met the Council at its July meeting, and briefly discussed the place of his Department in the University's programme. He is the first professor actually to begin work in Canberra, which he did on 6th July.

Dr. J. W. Davidson, Professor of Pacific History, is acting as Chairman of a Commission of Enquiry which is to make proposals for a system of local government in Samoa. Towards the end of the year Professor Davidson proposes to spend some weeks in England, mainly in connection with his work as co-editor of the Hakluyt Society's edition of Captain Cook's Journals. He expects to take up duty in Canberra in the early months of 1951.

Professor E. W. Titterton, Professor of Physics, will take up duty in England on 1st September. He expects to arrive in Canberra early next year.

The **Vice-Chancellor** and Professor G. A. Currie, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia and Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, will represent the Universities at the forthcoming Intercommonwealth Universities Conference in New Zealand. Sir Douglas Copland will leave Sydney on 28th July and return on 4th August.

Dr. K. E. Read, Research Fellow in Anthropology, took up duty on 1st July, 1950, and is preparing to leave for New Guinea to take up field studies.

Mr. Q. B. Gibson, Research Fellow in the Social Sciences, who has been undertaking philosophical research in Oxford, will return to Australia in the "Strathnaver," arriving in Melbourne on 21st August. He will resume duty as Lecturer in Philosophy in the Canberra University College about the middle of September.

The University Librarian, **Mr. A. L. G. McDonald**, who is at present in the United Kingdom, will leave on 7th October for the United States, where he will spend two months. Mr. McDonald attended the last meeting of the A.A.C. to discuss matters of policy concerning the Library.

The Professor of Microbiology, **Professor F. J. Fenner**, will deliver his inaugural lecture in the Institute of Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Canberra, at 8.15 p.m. on 17th August, 1950. The title of the lecture will be "The Significance of the Incubation Period in Infectious Diseases." The only other Professor so far to have delivered an inaugural lecture is Professor Ennor, Professor of Biochemistry, who spoke in Canberra on 9th December, 1948, on "Some Objectives and Accomplishments of Biochemical Research."

Mr. H. P. Brown, Reader in Economic Statistics, took up duty on 1st July.

Mr. C. P. FitzGerald, Visiting Reader in Oriental Studies, is at present in England. He will shortly leave for the United States, from whence he will go in November to China to buy books for the University Library, and to attend to personal affairs. He expects to take up duty in Canberra in January, 1951.

The **Vice-Chancellor** has accepted the office of Vice-President of Section G (Economics, Statistics and Social Science) of A.N.Z.A.A.S. in respect of the Association's next meeting, which will be held in Brisbane in May, 1951. The President of the Section will be Professor L. F. Giblin.

On his return journey from Paris, where he has been attending a conference of demographers sponsored by the United Nations, **Mr. W. D. Borrie**, Senior Research Fellow in Demography, paid short visits to some of the centres in the United States where population studies are in progress. Mr. Borrie and his wife and daughter moved to Canberra at the end of May.

Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow, Research Fellow in the Social Sciences, visited Canberra late in June, before leaving for England in the "Orion" on 13th July. While in Canberra Mr. Strehlow showed to a small group of University people some of the colour film he took, on his recent field tour, of hitherto unrecorded ceremonies of certain Central Australian aboriginal totemic clans. While in England Mr. Strehlow hopes to edit the 8,000 feet of film which resulted from his recent journey, and the wire recording of the accompanying chants which he secured at the same time.

Mr. B. D. Cameron, a scholar of the University, who proposes to work at Cambridge on economic material, has been awarded a Research Studentship by Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. Cameron is Lecturer-in-charge of the Department of Economics in the Canberra University College.

At its July meeting the Council offered its congratulations to **Mr. R. M. Hartwell** on his appointment as first Professor of Humanities in the New South Wales University of Technology. Mr. Hartwell is a scholar of the University, and is working at Balliol.

Mr. A. Davies, a scholar of the University, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Political Science in

the University of Melbourne. Mr. Davies is at present working at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Two of the University's scholars at present in the United Kingdom, **Dr. R. V. Sellwood** and **Dr. M. H. Draper**, will attend the International Congress of Physiology in Copenhagen in August. **Dr. E. C. Slater**, Research Fellow in Biochemistry, will also attend the Congress.

Mr. G. H. Nadel left Australia on 21st June for London *en route* for the United States to take up his scholarship.

Mr. R. D. Brown left on 13th July for London, where he will work under Professor C. A. Coulson at King's College.

During June the members of staff in Canberra enjoyed a visit from **Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Mayer**. Mr. Mayer is a scholar of the University, on his way to Fiji to undertake anthropological work among the Indian community, following similar work he has been doing in Malabar during the last few months. The Mayers sailed for New Zealand *en route* for Fiji on 21st July.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The University of Oxford, through the Hebdomadal Council, has indicated its intention of presenting to this University a silver replica of the stave carried by the Oxford Bedel of Arts. When informing the Vice-Chancellor of this intention the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, Dr. John Lowe, said: "This stave, which is about four feet long, was originally made by Benjamin Pyne, the leading goldsmith of the turn of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and is of peculiarly fine workmanship; it is inscribed *Ego sum Via, Vita et Veritas*, and is habitually carried before Vice-Chancellors of this University." The Council has expressed its pleasure and appreciation of this token of goodwill.

The Council of St. John's College, Cambridge, offers a Fellowship of the College for one year to a Dominion Scholar, and wishes to have nominations for the next award by 30th September, 1950. The Fellowship entitles the holder to a stipend of £300, to rooms in the College, and to the rights and privileges of a Fellow. The Council of St. John's has in mind, in offering the award, "a Professor on leave for a year from his University, or some other scholar or equivalent position and distinction in Arts or in Sciences."

At its July meeting, the Interim Council used for the first time the chairs and tables designed for the Council room. The furniture was built in Sydney, and is of Queensland maple.

The London office of the University has moved to new premises at 27 Russell Square, London, W.C.1. The new rooms are part of the accommodation of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, recently established under the leadership of Professor W. K. Hancock.

On 18th July the University entertained **Lord Bertrand Russell** at lunch in Canberra.