

lishment of a new university observatory; and Freundlich was entrusted with its erection as the observatory's first director. The outbreak of the Second World War interrupted this work almost immediately; and in the grim years that followed it took all of Freundlich's energy and determination to carry out his mission in the face of protracted material and man-power shortages—not to speak of perennial financial problems caused by the post-war inflation spiral. As the principal instruments for the new observatory—in keeping with St. Andrews's Gregory tradition—Freundlich wished to erect reflectors of the most modern type—the flat-field Schmidts. In collaboration with Linfoot and Waland, he succeeded in commissioning the 19-in. pilot model in regular service in 1949; but it was one of the disappointments of his life that he was unable to render the full-scale 39-in. flat-field Schmidt (the largest telescope of this type in the world) fully operational before his retirement.

On reaching the age of seventy in 1955, Freundlich retired from the Napier chair of astronomy at St. Andrews, but retained directorship of the observatory until 1959, when he finally left Scotland for his native Wiesbaden to spend his years in 'retirement'. If his middle age was often stormy, the evening of his life was calm. In a sense, however, Freundlich never really retired; for until he died he held an honorary professorship in the University of Mainz and his mind continued to remain active. His last book on *Celestial Mechanics* appeared in 1958. In the last decade of his life, Freundlich was much preoccupied

with astronomical red shifts and, in particular, with the fate of the photons which may travel from distant galaxies for hundreds of millions of years through empty space to reach us. Do they retain their original energy unimpaired? His last paper on this subject appeared in the *Zeitschrift für Astrophysik* in February of this year.

Death came gently on July 25 to claim the life of a veteran of almost four score years; and his passing is mourned not only by his family but by two generations of grateful students to whom Freundlich gave generous help in various stages of their careers in Germany, Turkey, Czechoslovakia or Britain, and many of whom are scattered all over the world. They will indeed remember him long as a man of forthright character and wide culture (he was an accomplished musician), whose tall stature, unbent by age, and leonine head towered in any gathering over most of his contemporaries. He was always forthright in expressing his views—there was nothing of a politician in him—a true liberal of old vintage and of the type who instinctively evoked also strong feelings in others; very few people who ever met him at a close range remained indifferent to his personality. What greater tribute can a man be paid?

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. K. Freundlich, who shared with her husband more than half a century of common life through troubled times; and by his two children and many grandchildren who have made their home in Britain.

ZDENĚK KOPAL

## NEWS and VIEWS

### The Royal Society of London: Medal Awards

THE following awards of medals have been made by the President and the Council of the Royal Society: *The Copley Medal*, to Prof. S. Chapman, advisory scientific director of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, for his theoretical contributions to terrestrial and interplanetary magnetism, the ionosphere and the aurora borealis; *The Rumford Medal*, to Prof. H. C. van du Hulst, professor of astronomy in the University of Leiden, for his distinguished work on the scattering processes in the interplanetary medium and his prediction of the 21-cm spectral line from interstellar neutral hydrogen; *The Davy Medal*, to Prof. M. Calvin, professor of chemistry in the University of California and director of the bio-organic chemistry group in the radiation laboratory, for his pioneering work in chemistry and biology, particularly his elucidation of the photosynthetic pathway for the incorporation of carbon dioxide by plants; *The Darwin Medal*, to Prof. K. Mather, professor of genetics in the University of Birmingham and Vice-Chancellor elect of the University of Southampton, for his distinguished contributions to knowledge of cytology and genetics; *The Sylvester Medal*, to Dr. Mary L. Cartwright, Mistress of Girton College and University reader in the theory of functions in the University of Cambridge, for her distinguished contributions to analysis and the theory of functions of a real and complex variable; *The Hughes Medal*, to Prof. A. Salam, professor of theoretical physics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the University of London, for his distinguished contributions to quantum mechanics and the theory of fundamental particles.

### Director of G.P.O. Research:

Mr. R. J. Halsey, C.M.G.

MR. R. J. HALSEY, who retires from the post of director of research at the General Post Office on December 31,

was born at Portsmouth in 1902, and was educated at the City and Guilds College on a Royal Scholarship. He took first-class honours degree and diplomas of both the City and Guilds and Imperial College of Science and Technology. He entered the Post Office Engineering Department in 1927, and, until his appointment as assistant engineer-in-chief in 1953, worked at the Post Office Research Station on line transmission. He was in charge of the work that led to the laying of the first-ever repeatered submarine cable, between Anglesey and the Isle of Man, in 1943. As assistant engineer-in-chief he led the Post Office project team on the first Transatlantic telephone cable. He became director of research in 1958, and in 1959 also a director of Cable and Wireless, Ltd. In 1957 he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

### Dr. G. H. Metson

DR. G. H. METSON, who has been appointed to succeed Mr. Halsey, was born in London in 1907 and joined the Post Office in 1925 as a youth-in-training. His early years with the Post Office were spent in the physics laboratory working on spectrography. Later he transferred to Northern Ireland, where he carried out research on magnetron oscillations and earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at Queen's University, Belfast. During the War he served with the Royal Corps of Signals, and won the M.C. for gallantry. In 1946 he was back at Dollis Hill as a principal scientific officer in charge of the Thermionics Group set up to study the causes of valve failure. Later his Division started to design and manufacture very-long-life valves. He was awarded a D.Sc. in 1958, and in 1962 received the Institution Premium, the highest award made by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, for a paper on an electrical engineering subject. He was appointed deputy director of research in 1962.