

PROF. J. N. MUKHERJEE, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.A.S.B.

WE have great pleasure in announcing that on the occasion of H. M. the King's Birthday this year, Prof. J. N. Mukherjee has been conferred the title of Commander of the British Empire.

Born in Calcutta in 1893, Prof. Mukherjee was educated at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and joined the Calcutta University in 1915 as a Lecturer in Chemistry. He proceeded on deputation to England in 1919 to work in the University of London under Prof. F. G. Donnan, F.R.S., where he made fundamental contributions to colloid chemistry. On returning to Calcutta in 1921, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the University. Prof. Mukherjee is well known as the chief exponent of colloid chemistry in India and the work which he has carried out, either alone or with numerous collaborators on the theory of ionic adsorption and his investigations on soil

colloids and bentonite suspensions have established his reputation throughout the scientific world as an eminent worker in this field. Prof. Mukherjee was mainly responsible for starting in 1924 the Indian Chemical Society of which he was Honorary Secretary for the first four years. He was elected the President of the Chemical Section of the sixteenth Indian Science Congress held at Madras in 1929. He proceeded to England in 1938 as Leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Conference of Soil Scientists. He is a member of various committees—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and Central Jute Research Committee—and has taken an active interest in the progress of *Current Science*. In offering our congratulations to him on the recent distinction, we wish him many more years of useful service to science in this country.

DR. S. K. BANERJI, O.B.E., D.Sc.

WE offer our heartiest congratulations to Dr. S. K. Banerji, Superintending Meteorologist, Upper Air Office, New Delhi, on the conferment of the O.B.E. in the latest King's Birthday Honours List. Dr. Banerji has a record of sustained and distinguished scientific work in many branches of Mathematical Physics, Geo-Physics and Meteorology for more than a quarter of a century. After a brilliant career in the Calcutta University, Dr. Banerji worked in the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science under Sir C. V. Raman and was awarded the D.Sc. degree of the Calcutta University in 1918 for a thesis on "Some problems in diffraction, wave-motion and vibration". He succeeded the late Dr. Ganesh Prasad as the Ghosh Professor of Applied Mathematics. In 1923, Dr. Banerji joined the Indian Meteorological Department as the Director of the Colaba and Alibag Observatories at Bombay. For the next ten years he conducted many fundamental investigations in Seismo-

logy, Atmospheric Electricity and Meteorology, contributing several important papers on these subjects. His papers on the Electric Field of thunderstorms and on microseisms associated with storms in Indian Seas are of particular importance. In 1933, Dr. Banerji was transferred to the Headquarters Office at Poona where, in the midst of heavy administrative duties he found time to continue his scientific work. He officiated as Director-General of Observatories several times and was appointed as a Superintending Meteorologist in 1938. He had a large share in bringing about much of the recent expansion and development in the meteorological development. Last year, Dr. Banerji took up the duties of Superintending Meteorologist of the Upper Air Office, New Delhi, in charge of the Upper Air Organisation of the department. We offer our warmest felicitations to Dr. Banerji on his honour and wish him many more years of distinguished service to the cause of science in India.

BRITISH UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

READERS of *Current Science* will be greatly interested to learn of two important appointments recently made in British Universities. PROF. A. C. CHIBNALL of the Imperial College, London, succeeds Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins as Professor of Biochemistry in the University of Cambridge. Prof. Chibnall was chiefly concerned in his earlier work with lipid constituents of plants. Later, he devoted more attention to proteins and other nitrogenous constituents of plants in relation to problems of nitrogen metabolism. More recently he is interesting himself in fundamental problems of protein structure to which he has made important contributions.

In the University College of North Wales, Bangor, on the retirement of Professor J. L. Simonsen, DR. EDWARD DAVID HUGHES succeeds him. Dr. Hughes is noted for his work on the ionization (or "heterolysis") as controlling phase in a large class of substitution and elimination reactions of saturated molecules and ions, the discovery of the rules governing the spatial orientation of substitution (including a demonstration, by the use of radio-halogens, of the invariability of Walden inversion in bimolecular substitution), and the elucidation of circumstances which control the appearance of steric hindrance in substitution processes,—*Nature*, 1943, 151, 610,