

in 1898. He was also an honorary member of the National Geographic Society

In November 1898 he married Jean T. Botterell of Montreal. His wife predeceased him by three years. He is survived by a son, Richard, on active service in Africa, and a daughter, Winifred.

He did not seek reward or high position; his ambition was to do the appointed task as well as possible and to further the science of geology. In order to be prepared for any work that he might be called upon to do, he kept himself in excellent physical condition by taking long walks. He took hardships as a matter of course, but nevertheless he could tell interesting stories about them afterwards when surrounded by personal friends, though he invariably declined to tell of his work or experiences on a public platform. After his return from an expedition he would immediately write his account of it in excellent English, and for the rest of the winter or spring would study reports of other geologists to keep up to date in his chosen field. He was fond of the outdoor life, and his keen powers of observation made him an outstanding field geologist. He loved the hills and was reluctant to give up his summer explorations to take on office duties as Deputy Minister. His body was cremated in Montreal and the ashes were scattered over the country he loved so much.

GEORGE HANSON.

### Major G. W. Dunkin

MAJOR G. W. DUNKIN, lately director of the Agricultural Research Council Field Station, Compton, Berks, died on March 21 of this year. After post-graduate study, taking the diploma of veterinary hygiene of the University of Liverpool, he settled in general veterinary practice in Kent. Three or four years later, on the outbreak of war in 1914, he joined the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and spent most of his war service in Egypt, latterly commanding the 20th Veterinary Hospital in that country. He returned to practice after the War, but in 1923 was

appointed superintendent of the Farm Laboratories' Medical Research Council, Mill Hill.

From then on he carried out much important research on animal disease problems, and in this sphere his keen and inquiring mind and his early training and experience enabled him to plan and execute intricate large-scale experiments with domesticated animals and bring these to successful conclusions, avoiding much of the incidental, often unforeseen, complication that can delay and spoil such work on occasion.

Undoubtedly Dunkin's name will be remembered in future more particularly in connexion with the successful investigation into the causation of distemper in dogs carried out in collaboration with the late Sir Patrick Laidlaw. This is a classic in epidemic disease research. Among diseases to which Dunkin devoted much time are John's disease of cattle and bovine contagious abortion. He spent years on the study of John's disease, particularly with a view to the elaboration of a reliable diagnostic agent and to the production of a vaccine. He obtained important results, and though the problems have not been solved his contributions will be remembered.

In 1937 Dunkin was appointed to the Compton post and the intervening years were devoted to the organization of the estate to suit the requirements of the Agricultural Research Council, and to the inauguration of a large-scale research scheme on bovine contagious abortion.

Major Dunkin was a very active man in many spheres. He had held high office in the National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland and on the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He was chairman of the examination committee of that body. He was chairman for some years of the editorial committee of the National Veterinary Medical Association and chairman of a special committee of the Association to investigate small animal euthanasia, an important report being published under his guidance. He held the office of president, Section of Comparative Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Sir Henry Tizard, K.C.B., F.R.S.

By electing Sir Henry Tizard as their president, the Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, have made a timely and important break with Oxford tradition, for he is the first man of science to become a head of a college there. When the country can spare him from his present extremely important duties as a member of the Air Council and of the Advisory Council of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, he will return to his old college with a mind enriched by an exceptionally wide and varied experience in the arts of war and peace. He won his spurs in scientific research under the guidance of Prof. Townsend, and his valuable work with Dr. Pye on adiabatic compression of gases made a link with internal combustion engineering which he has maintained ever since. The War of 1914-18 turned his thoughts and efforts to aeronautical research, and he has long exerted a highly important directing influence on British aircraft development, and on the solution of the problems of air warfare, offensive and defensive; these services have stood the nation in good stead during the present great struggle for a

free world. The guidance of State assistance to research in pure science and in industry occupied him for eight years between the two Wars, and from that he turned to the administration of scientific and technical education, as rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, which has greatly prospered under his leadership. At Oxford, as in London, it is certain that he will not only be successful as head of his College, but also take a prominent part in science, education and national affairs.

### Dr. W. S. Gordon

IN the obituary notices in this issue reference is made to the work of the late Major G. W. Dunkin, who was director for the past five years of the Compton Field Station of the Agricultural Research Council. Dr. W. S. Gordon, senior bacteriologist, Animal Diseases Research Association, Moredun Institute, Gilmerton, Edinburgh, has been appointed to succeed Major Dunkin. A graduate of the Glasgow Veterinary College in 1923, Dr. Gordon was on the staff of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, Beckenham, for some years