

first M.B. teaching in the Zoological Laboratory at Cambridge, more than five thousand students passing through his hands. He declined preferment, for the low pay of those days made private coaching necessary, while there were then no grants available for his research purposes. He became steward of his College during 1914–23, finally being elected a fellow in 1931.

Meantime Brindley had attained high distinction in other fields. He was a keen member of the Cambridge Cruising Club, and his knowledge of ships was unsurpassed. Hardy (later Sir William) had him and Graham Kerr as crew on his *Raven*, when she was the first yacht to pass westward through the Kiel Canal. He was one of the founders of the Society for Nautical Research in 1911, and he never missed a council meeting for twenty-eight years. He was a prolific writer in its journal, his chief subject the

medieval ship. This and a love for St. Christopher led him to many ports and gave play to his artistic abilities, a study of medieval glass giving him great joy. He put his chief trust in engraved seals, and extended his research to every seaport in Europe. He arranged a special room for them in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, to which he gave his own unmatched collection. These settled the dates at which the rudder replaced the steering oar and the use of reef points. He was also an authority on primitive sailing craft.

Here was a character with a genius for friendship, equally at home in the discussions of art, literature and science, at first a noted contributor to the advance of biology, later a historian of nautical evolution, always the inimitable and humorous word-painter of the many noted personalities he had met, a real lover of life. J. STANLEY GARDINER.

## NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. A. R. Todd, F.R.S.

PROF. A. R. TODD has been appointed professor of organic chemistry in the University of Cambridge as from September 1944. Prof. Todd received his early education at Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, and passed from there to the University of Glasgow where, after a brilliant academic career, he graduated in 1928 and commenced his first research under the direction of Prof. T. S. Patterson. In October of the following year he went to work with Prof. W. Borsche in the University at Frankfurt-am-Main, where as a Carnegie Research Scholar he studied the chemistry of certain bile acids, and in 1931 presented the results of this work in the form of a thesis for which he was afterwards awarded the degree of Ph.D. On his return to England, he was elected to a Senior Studentship of the Exhibition of 1851 and worked for the next three years in the research laboratory of Sir Robert Robinson at Oxford. For his researches on the synthesis of anthocyanins during this period he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. At the invitation of the late Prof. G. Barger, he moved from Oxford to Edinburgh in 1934 to take up the study of the chemical constitution of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>. The skill with which he led his team during this period and finally determined the structure of the vitamin, and of its fluorescent oxidation product, thiochrome, established his reputation as an outstanding organic chemist.

IN 1936 the Governing Body of the Lister Institute invited Dr. Todd to continue his researches in the Biochemical Department, and for the next two years he and his co-workers investigated the nature of the groupings responsible for the characteristic physiological action of vitamin B<sub>1</sub> and completed the synthesis of a number of compounds structurally related to the vitamin. Dr. Todd became a reader in biochemistry in the University of London in 1937. During his stay at the Lister Institute, he continued his researches on the constitution of the anti-sterility vitamin (vitamin E) and engaged in many other topics which included the chemistry of certain anthelmintic drugs and the active principles of *Cannabis indica*. In 1938 Dr. Todd was appointed professor of chemistry and director of the Chemical Laboratories in the University of Manchester, and with the increased facilities available at this famous

centre of research, he was able to engage in an ever-widening array of synthetic and constitutional problems. Prof. Todd was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1942. Chemists and biochemists throughout the country will wish him every success and happiness in his new appointment.

### Royal Commission on Population

IT is announced that the Royal Commission on Population has been constituted as follows: Lord Simon (*chairman*); Prof. A. M. Carr-Saunders, director of the London School of Economics; Sir Hubert Henderson, of the Treasury, formerly joint secretary to the Economic Advisory Council; Prof. A. W. M. Ellis, regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford; Dr. Ethel Cassie, formerly senior assistant medical officer of health for maternity and child welfare, Birmingham; Lord Cranbrook, deputy regional commissioner for the Eastern Civil Defence Region; Lady Dollan, wife of a former Lord Provost of Glasgow; Mr. R. C. K. Ensor, research fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Mr. J. R. Hobhouse, of Messrs. Alfred Holt and Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Mrs. Margaret Jay, a member of the L.C.C.; Mrs. Gwen Longmoor, wife of a West Hartlepool factory worker; Mrs. G. P. Hopkin Morris, wife of the B.B.C. regional director for Wales; Lady Ogilvie, wife of the former director-general of the B.B.C.; Mrs. Helen Pawson, area representative for Wales of the W.V.S.; Mr. A. Roberts, general secretary of the Association of Card Blowing and Ring Room Operatives; and Mr. W. Dunkeld Robieson, editor of the *Glasgow Herald*.

Associated with the Royal Commission will be the three following technical committees: *Statistical Committee*: Prof. A. M. Carr Saunders (*chairman*), Mr. V. P. A. Derrick, Dr. D. V. Glass, Mr. R. R. Kuczynski, Mr. J. G. Kyd, Mr. H. Campion, Mr. A. Reeder, Dr. P. Stocks, Mr. F. A. A. Menzler and Mr. G. H. Maddex. *Economics Committee*: Sir Hubert Henderson (*chairman*), Mr. E. C. Ramsbotham, Prof. Alexander Gray, Prof. J. R. Hicks, Mr. W. B. Reddaway, and Mrs. Joan Robinson. *Biological and Medical Committee*: Prof. A. W. M. Ellis (*chairman*), Prof. E. D. Adrian, Prof. D. Baird, Dr. P. H. F. Bishop, Dr. C. P. Blacker, Mr. Eardley L. Holland, Dame Louise McIlroy, Dr. A. S. Parkes, Mr. E. W. Riches,