

Research Council of Canada from May 1932 until March 1937.

Of his work at Manitoba, Mr. Sidney Smith, who has just retired from the post of president of the University of Manitoba, says: "Dr. Frank Allen was a pioneer and a builder in the first university in Western Canada—the University of Manitoba. Appointed to the staff of that University in 1904, when it became a teaching institution, he founded the Department of Physics, of which for forty years he has been the distinguished head. As a gifted teacher, his record may be read in the careers of generations of students. To the new university he brought an inquiring mind and the spirit of research. He constantly advocated that a university is charged with the responsibility of conserving and transmitting the wisdom and culture of the past and also with the duty of extending the horizons of knowledge. He always considered physics in relation to the other physical sciences and, in fact, as a part of a truly liberal education. Specialization did not narrow his outlook: it broadened his interests and influence".

Prof. Allen's research work has been almost entirely on the rather dim borderland where physics, physiology and psychology, the 'three p's', meet. His first work was on colour vision. His aim was to investigate the nervous actions underlying colour vision and other sensory activities. In his own words, the aim of his work was first to place the sense of colour vision on a foundation of experimentally ascertained physiological principles, and then to establish the fundamental identity of the processes underlying all of the special senses, including vision, hearing, taste and touch. Prof. Allen is now engaged on collecting the results of his life-work; many of his papers have appeared in scientific journals, particularly the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*. Prof. Allen's wife died some years ago, but he has a family of two sons and one daughter—Dr. J. F. Allen, who has just been elected to a fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge; William Allen, an architect in London (England); and Miss Lillian Allen, on the staff of the University of Manitoba. Prof. Allen's many friends join in wishing him many happy years of useful work.

Chair of Psychology, Birkbeck College

DR. C. A. MACE, who has been appointed to the chair of psychology at Birkbeck College, University of London, holds the degrees of M.A. Cambridge and D.Litt. London. After leaving Cambridge he was for a time at University College, Nottingham. From there he was appointed lecturer in logic and psychology in the University of St. Andrews. He left Scotland to take up the position of University reader in psychology at Bedford College, London. Dr. Mace has published books and papers in both psychology and philosophy, his best-known work in philosophy being the "Principles of Logic" (1933). In psychology his interests are mainly in social and industrial spheres, and in problems concerning economical methods in learning. In 1935 he published a monograph "Incentives, some Experimental Studies" (Ind. Health Res. Bd. Report No. 72). This was mainly concerned with problems arising in industry owing to variations in the will to work of the employee in contrast to the more usual studies of ability. Dr. Mace has also worked on the fluctuations of interests of college and Workers' Educational Association students over several years, and on the psycho-

logical make-up of groups of friends. His latest publication is a paper in the *Sociological Review* on some of the psychological causes of national prejudice. In this paper he makes an important theoretical distinction between stereotypes, or rigid mechanisms of thought, and plastotypes, or more fluid ones. Dr. Mace has always been keenly interested in adult education, so his appointment to Birkbeck College seems a singularly happy choice.

Book Production

IN connexion with the recent discussion of the shortage of educational and other books (see *Nature*, September 9, p. 319), the following reply given by Mr. Dalton in the House of Commons on September 26 should be noted: "The Minister of Production has agreed, at my request, to increase the allocation of paper to publishers of books as from the end of next month to 42½ per cent of their pre-war usage. I hope that the publishers will do all they can to devote this extra paper to supplying liberated territories, as well as Empire and other oversea markets. The Minister of Production has also increased by more than one third the allocation to my special reserve, and has made a further additional allocation for certain classes of educational books. I am in touch with the Minister of Labour about the supply of labour for printing and binding." The additional allowance of 2½ per cent of publishers' 1938-39 consumption of paper will be welcome; but it is difficult to see how Mr. Dalton's hope that the extra paper should be used to supply liberated territories and overseas markets could be fulfilled. It seems very doubtful if any publisher would be able to differentiate sharply between books for such overseas markets and those for use in Great Britain. In any event, there is a definite shortage of educational and scientific books, which are needed as much at home as abroad. Publishers are well aware of this, and will no doubt do all in their power to overcome it. They will also note Mr. Dalton's remark that he is in touch with the Minister of Labour about the supply of labour in the printing and binding trades. As we have said before, these trades have been stripped of labour, and until more workpeople are made available, full use cannot be made of the additional allocation of paper for the production of educational and other books.

Practical Limits in Social Reform

BULLETIN NO. 5 of the Tory Reform Committee "What Shall We Use for Money?" is of interest as an attempt to indicate the broad limits of what is politically and economically practicable in the field of social reform. The pamphlet distinguishes between income and outlay of the nation as a whole, and the Exchequer aspect, or that part of the national income which passes through the Revenue and Expenditure of the Exchequer. These aspects are discussed separately, and a survey of post-war national outlay and national income after the War emphasizes that our standard of living will, and always must be, dependent on the maintenance of high productive efficiency. Discussing, in conclusion, finance and politics, the Tory Reform Committee does not believe that the measures of social reform which it has championed are beyond the taxable or economic capacity of the nation to bear, or beyond the willingness of the majority of individuals to provide by personal effort and sacrifice. It is well aware, however, that such