

handling of the crop by a seed-renewal system of pure lines, under spinning control, was adding to Egypt's wealth by more than fifteen million pounds yearly, but cracks were visible to us at Giza. Two pure-line varieties showed deterioration impending, which pure lines should not do. We knew our definition of 'purity' to be pragmatic, and no visible characters were at fault; nevertheless those yarns were getting weaker. Hancock used everything he possessed of physical and mental equipment in a complete demonstration and abolition of the trouble, laying down a simple 'nucleus-seed' control system which—if the Egyptians continue to use it—has eliminated its recurrence. He first applied the spinning-test to all seed-lots of the high-quality cottons, arresting further decay; then he excavated through cubic metres of the plant-breeders' files from 1924 onward, until he could present the exact pedigree of every family; this showed that an occasional use of open-fertilized seed (against all orders) had introduced the unwanted genes. The strength of yarn was shown to integrate the effect of hundreds of genes, and the only available indicator of genic change was yarn-strength—which is the spinners' only requirement.

Hancock's last printed publication, towards the end of the War, was a trilogy of papers on the practical

aspects of this theme. He had to re-write them completely, because the publishers disliked the style he had chosen to catch the spinners' interest. This, after five Egyptian war-time summers, was tiresome, for besides his proper work he had been helpful in many details of the war in the Middle East, and had directed a systematic examination of captured enemy textiles. A possibility of leave in 1945 had to be forgone, and by the winter he was involved in organising 'cotton missions' abroad, out of an exaggerated sense of loyalty to his Minister, himself taking the United States mission.

Meanwhile, he was offered the Bombay Technological Laboratory post, at threefold his pay in Egypt, and arranged to leave Giza after his American trip. Before he returned to Giza (his plane having been struck by lightning on the way) the Indian appointment had failed of confirmation, for political reasons, and he had to re-cast his plans. India's offer was renewed later, but by then he was on sick-leave in England, with confidence lost, no longer able to cope with conditions. His keen interest in world affairs increased the depression induced by the frustrations of Egypt and India, so that the end was such tragedy as Hardy wrote.

W. LAWRENCE BALLS

NEWS and VIEWS

Agricultural Research Council: A New Institute of Animal Physiology

THE Agricultural Research Council, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, has decided that in many directions progress towards the improvement of animal health and production is restricted by lack of knowledge of the fundamental physiology, normal and abnormal, of farm animals, and that to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge a new Institute of Animal Physiology is needed. It has been decided that the Council should establish such an Institute, since the work which must be done needs the provision of buildings, land and large animals on a scale which would not be appropriate to a university department. Prof. I. de Burgh Daly, professor of physiology in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed director, and will take office early in 1948. It is intended to appoint as Prof. Daly's senior colleagues a biochemist and a pathologist, so that the full range of problems bearing on the physiology of farm animals may be studied, including practical problems arising in the course of the handling and care of animals on the farm. A site for the new Institute has not yet been chosen, but preference will be given to one sufficiently near to a university to facilitate close contact between scientific workers in the Institute and those in University departments.

Prof. I. de Burgh Daly, F.R.S.

PROF. DALY has held the chair of physiology in the University of Edinburgh since 1933. He was educated at Rossall School, at the University of Cambridge, where he took first-class honours in Part I of the Natural Science Tripos and was Thurston Medallist of Caius College, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In the First World War Prof. Daly was a fighter pilot in the Royal Naval Air Service. He was a member

of the staff of the Department of Physiology, University College, London, during 1919–23, a Beit Memorial Fellow, and lecturer in experimental physiology in the University of Wales, Cardiff, in 1923, before being appointed professor of physiology in the University of Birmingham in 1927, where he worked until he was appointed to Edinburgh in 1933. During the Second World War, Prof. Daly carried out research on the physiology of high-altitude flying and on poison gases in Edinburgh during 1939–43. From 1943 until 1945 he was director of the Physiological Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lulworth, which was responsible for the investigation of the physiological factors determining the fighting efficiency of the crews in armoured fighting vehicles.

Agriculture at the University of Reading

THE autumn term at the University of Reading will witness two important changes in the professorial staff of the Faculty of Agriculture. The first is that Prof. H. A. D. Neville, who has occupied the chair of agricultural chemistry since 1919, and has been dean of the Faculty for almost as long a time, retires at the end of September. He is succeeded, as regards the chair, by Dr. Cyril Tyler, who has been lecturer in agricultural chemistry in the University. Prof. H. G. Sanders, professor of agriculture, will take over the duties of Dean of the Faculty.

Prof. Neville went to Reading with a training—undergraduate and post-graduate—under the late Prof. T. B. Wood in Cambridge and after service with the Forces in the First World War. At that time the University of Reading had not received its charter, the Faculty of Agriculture was scarcely on its feet, and the study of agricultural chemistry had barely begun. Prof. Neville's knowledge, administrative wisdom and drive as dean of the Faculty have been largely responsible for the unfaltering progress and development of the study of agriculture and its associated sciences, first in the University College and