

War he served on the Directorate of Pathology at home, in the Central Mediterranean and in South-East Asia. His researches include work on the renal function in various morbid states, on diseases of childhood (with special reference to non-tubercular infections of the lung), and on the healing of lung injuries. He has recently taken part in the trials of streptomycin carried out by the Medical Research Council.

Victor Meyer (1848-97)

AMONG the many eminent German chemists of the latter half of last century, none enjoyed a higher reputation than Victor Meyer, who entered the University of Heidelberg in 1865 at the age of seventeen and, twenty-four years later, was chosen to succeed his old master Bunsen in the chair of chemistry there. Meyer was born at Berlin on September 8, 1848, being the son of a Jewish calico manufacturer. His home influences had tended towards the literary and artistic rather than the scientific, and Meyer, it is said, wished to become an actor, for which he had all the natural gifts. At Heidelberg, however, he came under the spell of Kopp, Kirchhoff, Helmholtz and Bunsen, and after a time became assistant to the last. From Heidelberg he went to Berlin to work under Baeyer, and successively held posts at Stuttgart, Zurich and Göttingen, before returning to his *alma mater*. With a fine voice, handsome presence and impressive manner, he became known as one of the best lecturers in Germany. With his other gifts he combined a passion for work, and was responsible for some three hundred memoirs. His most important investigations are referred to in the Memorial Lecture on Meyer delivered to the Chemical Society on February 8, 1900, by Sir Edward Thorpe, who had known him for thirty years. Unfortunately, his great mental activity brought on insomnia and he had several spells of ill-health. His death took place on August 8, 1897, when he was but forty-eight years of age. He had received many honours from scientific societies, and among these was a Royal Medal from the Royal Society awarded him two years after he had succeeded Bunsen.

Dedication of Private Woodlands

IN the Forestry Commission Booklet No. 2 (H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1948) the purpose of the scheme for the dedication of private woodlands is explained. This purpose is to encourage the application of systematic management to private woodlands, become necessary, it is said, in the interests of national security because the reserves of standing timber have been greatly depleted during and since the War; and it might be added are still suffering from more or less crude over-felling, especially in the hardwood areas. Under the scheme the owner undertakes to use the land in such a way that timber production is the main object; to work to a plan to be approved by the Forestry Commission; to employ skilled supervision, and to keep adequate accounts. The object of the scheme is to ensure that replanting or regeneration of woodlands cut during the War shall proceed with continuity and rapidity, that this work in its young stages must be looked after until the young woods are established and, it is to be proposed, after that stage has been reached. Owners must make up their minds as to whether they are prepared to work the scheme; if they agree, they will receive State financial assistance. If the owner is unwilling to join the scheme or keep his

woodland areas in proper order, the State will acquire them. Finally, some system of control of the sylviculture of private woodlands is deemed necessary.

To give effect to the scheme a deed of covenant in England and Wales and an agreement in Scotland will be entered into by which both the State and the owner undertake respective obligations as already mentioned. The Forestry Commission, as the agent of Government, will undertake to provide financial assistance to the owner on one of these bases at the owner's option: (1) To repay to the owner 25 per cent of the approved net annual expenditure on a dedicated woodland by way of loans which are described in the pamphlet. (2) To make payment to the owner as follows: (a) a planting grant of £10 per annum for every acre planted or replanted, softwood or hardwood, after date of dedication; (b) loans in addition to (a) on terms to be settled according to individual circumstances, the terms being given in the pamphlet; (c) a maintenance grant for fifteen years of 3s. 4d. per acre per annum on every acre dedicated that is planted properly and maintained; (d) a maintenance grant for fifteen years of 3s. 4d. per acre per annum from the date of dedication, on all productive woodlands other than new plantations covered already by (c) and (d). These grants will be reviewed and revised as may be necessary after five years from 1946-47 on the basis of ascertained costs. Dedication will run with the land and will not be affected by change in ownership.

New German Hydrographic Journal

WITH the first issue of the *Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift* (1, No. 1, January, 1948), to the forthcoming appearance of which reference was made in *Nature* of August 16, 1947, p. 219, the publication of post-war articles by German oceanographers and other marine scientists and technicians commences. The first paper, by K. Kalle, deals with the problem of marine production and reviews research material and methods of investigation. Kalle compares the probable amount of marine production with the yields known from continental soils of the temperate zones. W. Hansen in the second article gives a general mathematical treatment of the oscillations of inertia in open and land-locked seas. The old nautical problem of the dip of the horizon is attacked once more theoretically, by H. Chr. Freiesleben. He derives a formula which, in order to be strictly employed, demands measurements of the air-temperature at the horizon immediately above the sea-surface. Another short but interesting contribution, by F. Errulat, describes a series of measurements of the earth-magnetic field on the Dacia Bank (between Madeira and Morocco); he concludes that the Bank has a core of eruptive rocks. The field of nautical technique is represented by a description of a direction-holder named "Polkreisel", by P. Christoph. Moreover, there is an article on the German Hydrographic Institute, its origin, its tasks, and its organisation by the director, Dr. Böhnecke, and finally there are obituary notes on several notable German scientists who had worked on nautical science and on oceanography. In the next issue (No. 2/3) of the *Zeitschrift*, which was expected to be distributed in the beginning of August 1948, there is to be (with other papers) articles on the bottom geology of the southern and middle Baltic, on a fundamental geodetic problem in sea-surveying, on magnetic storms, and on resonance oscillations of bights and the mouth correction for seiches.