

introduction into Britain of the Colorado beetle after its establishment on the Continent of Europe.

In 1941, the Ministry formed the Agricultural Improvement Council to act as a bridge between science and practice in agriculture, and Fryer became its first secretary. His work for some years had involved close contacts with the Agricultural Research Council, and in 1944, following the death of Dr. W. W. C. Topley, he accepted appointment as secretary of the Council. It was with some misgiving that he undertook this onerous task, for it meant continuous office-work in London, and he knew that there would be little or no time for his entomological interests.

In addition to his scientific attainments, Fryer possessed high administrative ability, and his appointment was quickly justified. His practical knowledge of farming, acquired in his early days, combined with a long experience of the application of scientific method in agriculture, admirably fitted him for the work. Moreover, he had, to a rare degree, the capacity to see and state clearly and succinctly the essential points of any problem, and many who sought his advice could testify to his clear-sighted,

logical and helpful discussion of their difficulties. He was especially good in committee, where his sure grasp of essentials and his tactful guidance often brought a rambling discussion to a point.

Fryer was a real countryman and naturalist and a keen fisherman. He was at his best on a collecting expedition in some remote part of the country, and the briefest holiday was spent, if possible, where he could search for specially interesting or rare insects. He had fine collections of British Lepidoptera, Coleoptera and Hemiptera-Heteroptera and was an expert on the Microlepidoptera. He took great interest in the conservation of the British fauna and flora and was an active member of the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves and of various committees of the National Trust. He served as president of the Association of Applied Biologists and of the Royal Entomological Society; he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1948. His official services were recognized by a knighthood in 1946.

In 1919, he married Constance Joan Denny-Cooke, of Bergh Apton, near Norwich, who, with a son and daughter, survives him. He was buried at Bergh Apton.
C. T. GIMINGHAM

NEWS and VIEWS

The National Physical Laboratory, Light Division:
Mr. T. Smith, F.R.S.

ON his retirement last July, Mr. T. Smith completed a period of forty-one years service at the National Physical Laboratory, where he was in charge first of the Optics Section of the Physics Department and later of the newly created Light Division. The long series of investigations on geometrical optics which have established Mr. Smith as a leading authority in the subject were begun a few years after he entered the Laboratory with a paper to the Optical Society entitled "Practical Optical Calculations". This was the key for much of his later work. His outstanding contributions have been to the theory of algebraic, as distinct from trigonometric, methods of optical design, and in the development of methods of computation based on the use of calculating machines. A feature of many of his later papers has been the masterly application of matrix methods to optical problems. As is so often the case when alternatives to old-established procedures are offered, the adoption of Mr. Smith's design methods in the industry has been slow; but there are now signs that their value is being appreciated. Mr. Smith's work was recognized by his election to the Royal Society in 1932, and he has held the office of president both of the earlier Optical Society and the Physical Society. The younger workers in his subject recall with appreciation the care he always took that they should have the fullest opportunity to develop their views however unorthodox or immature. It is appropriate that the council of the Physical Society should have invited Mr. Smith to deliver the sixteenth Thomas Young Oration; this he has agreed to do in June 1949.

Dr. L. A. Sayce

DR. L. A. SAYCE, who has succeeded Mr. T. Smith as superintendent of the Light Division at the National Physical Laboratory, is fifty years of age.

After serving in the Honourable Artillery Company in the First World War, he went to the University of Durham to study chemistry, taking honours in 1922, when he was awarded the Saville Shaw Medal. He remained at Durham carrying out research in inorganic chemistry, was awarded his Ph.D., and in 1927 was appointed University lecturer in chemistry. He remained at Durham until 1940, carrying out during this period considerable fundamental work in inorganic chemistry, instrument design, chemical kinetics and photography.

In 1940 Dr. Sayce joined the Ministry of Home Security to initiate a research group in connexion with camouflage, where he did excellent work until 1943. He was then transferred to the Ministry of Supply to take charge of alginate research. Unfortunately, he fell seriously ill soon after receiving this appointment and was away from active work for a year. On recovery he was appointed to the Scientific Research Department of the Admiralty as a principal experimental officer, and in this capacity he was responsible for considerable advances in the development of all kinds of instruments for laboratory use in the Admiralty experimental establishments. In particular he did excellent work in the applications of high-speed photography for laboratory purposes. On the re-organisation of the Admiralty Scientific Service in 1946, he was appointed assistant director of physical research. Dr. Sayce has earned a very high reputation in a wide field of science, and he brings to his new appointment a keen appreciation of the value of fundamental research and an exceptional ability to plan and supervise it.

Zoological Society of London:

Mr. G. S. Cansdale

MR. G. S. CANSDALE has been appointed superintendent of the Zoological Society's Gardens in Regent's Park, London, in succession to Dr. G. M. Vewers, who retired on December 15 (see *Nature*, November 6, p. 727). Mr. Cansdale was educated at