

NEWS and VIEWS

Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge :
Bishop Fleming

THE retirement of the Rev. W. L. S. Fleming from the directorship of the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge was necessitated by his transfer, at the age of forty-three, to the diocese of Portsmouth, a transfer which, seeming natural to his many friends, must be unexpected to those less closely concerned. Educated at Rugby and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Bishop Fleming took geology, and his ability in that subject was the basis for an award of a Commonwealth Fund fellowship in the United States. Following this he took part in two summer arctic expeditions, and then Westcott House and later a fellowship and the chaplaincy of Trinity Hall claimed him. During 1934-37 he was in the Antarctic with the British Graham Land Expedition as chaplain and geologist, and was a member of the three-man sledge party which first penetrated King George VI Sound. Continued work at Trinity Hall kept him until the war-time Navy claimed him as a chaplain in H.M.S. *King Alfred*, *Ganges* and *Queen Elizabeth*. After a period as director of Service ordination candidates, he returned to Cambridge in 1946 as dean of his College and director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in succession to Prof. Frank Debenham, its founder and for twenty-five years its first director. Cambridge will greatly miss Bishop Fleming's manifold and selfless exertions.

Dr. G. C. L. Bertram

Dr. G. C. L. Bertram, who succeeds Bishop Fleming at the Scott Polar Research Institute, comes to its directorship while continuing his responsibilities as fellow and tutor of St. John's College, Cambridge. Dr. Bertram was educated at Berkhamsted School and went into residence as an exhibitor of St. John's in 1929, where zoology was his main subject. Summer arctic expeditions to Bear Island and East Greenland were followed by a period of research on coral reefs under Crossland in the Gulf of Suez, before he went to the Antarctic with the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-37. There he accompanied Bishop Fleming and Prof. A. Stephenson down King George VI Sound, and made the southern seals his main research. After a few years back in Cambridge, he joined the Colonial Service in 1940 and went as chief fisheries officer to the Government of Palestine. Then, on transfer to the Anglo-American Middle East Supply Centre as fisheries advisor, he travelled widely over the Middle East area. Michaelmas 1945 saw his appointment to a fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1948 he journeyed to advise on fisheries development in the Sultanate of Muscat, and in 1949 he visited the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea for zoological research on the great herd of fur seals.

Royal Society of Edinburgh : Prizes

THE Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has announced the following awards: Gunning-Victoria Jubilee Prize for the period 1944-48 to Prof. Max Born, Tait professor of natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, for his distinguished contributions to theoretical physics; Neill Prize for the period 1947-49 to Prof. John Walton, regius professor of botany in the University of Glasgow, for his valuable contributions to our knowledge of

carboniferous palaeobotany, two of which have appeared in the *Transactions* of the Society within the period of the award; Keith Prize for the period 1947-49 to Prof. A. G. Walker, Town Trust professor of mathematics in the University of Sheffield, for his papers on the general theory of relativity published in the *Proceedings* of the Society within the period, and in recognition of his distinguished contributions to Riemannian geometry.

Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift (1875-1950)

THIS year marks the celebration by the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* of the seventy-fifth year of its outstanding service to the medical sciences. As its own leading article says, when we turn the pages of its long succession of volumes, we feel that we are reading the medical history of the past three-quarters of a century; and we are correspondingly grateful to the men whose work created these pages. The journal was founded by Paul Börner in 1875. Robert Koch, still an unknown country medical man, was trying out a new microscope given to him as a birthday present by his young wife. This was also a time of great discoveries in chemistry and physics. While Pasteur in France was doing his immortal work, Koch, busy with his new microscope, conceived the idea of using the recently discovered aniline dyes for staining bacteria and tissues. One day, in a blood smear from a sheep, he found he had stained the anthrax bacillus, and in 1877 he finally proved, in a classical paper on this bacillus which made him famous, that this bacillus is the cause of anthrax. Most of Koch's great work was published in the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift*, and the journal is rightly proud of the distinguished names in its list of contributors. They include Ehrlich, Pfeiffer, Behring, Schaudinn, Hoffmann, Domagk and leading workers in America and in Great Britain and most of the other European countries.

When Paul Börner died in 1885, the journal was edited by Dr. S. Guttman, who on his death in 1894 was succeeded by Dr. Eulenburg and Dr. Schwalbe. Throughout its history this journal has enjoyed distinguished editorship. Since 1887 it has been issued by Georg Thieme of Stuttgart, and the printing and production of the journal, never an easy task, has maintained a consistently high standard. Medical men all over the world have for long been grateful for all the care that has gone to its production and for the great work that it has published. At this moment, when it looks back proudly over its record, all scientific men will wish it continued success in its service of humanity.

Fluid Handling

A NEW monthly journal, *Fluid Handling* (No. 1, 1949; pp. 44. London: Binjon Press; 20s. a year), is devoted to fluids from every point of view. It thus has a wide scope, as there are few chemical or chemical engineering operations in which fluids are not concerned. This is borne out by the variety of subjects dealt with in the first issue, which include tetra-cresyl silicate as a heating medium, launching a sea pipe-line, the disposal of colliery sludge and plating-shop effluents, a prototype plant for sterilization in the dairy, and proportionometer pumps. The articles are of a descriptive nature and are fully illustrated with excellent photographs and extremely clear diagrams. They serve to direct attention to new types of plant and modern installations, in a manner requiring little effort from the reader. To the man