periods is, however, clearly demonstrated for all but two out of the twenty-four years investigated. In the years 1946 and 1947, some over-riding factor or factors must have dominated the haddock development. This may have been, for example, temperature, and it is interesting that the 1947 spawning followed one of the coldest winters in recent years. Nevertheless, it is considered that a knowledge of the wind conditions over the spawning area may lead to accurate predictions of future haddock-brood strengths, at least a year in advance of data obtainable at present, either with a research vessel or from commercial statistics, that is, two years in advance of the entry of these fish into the commercial fishing.

A fuller account of this work will be published elsewhere (Scientific Investigations, Fisheries Division, Scottish Home Department).

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NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at Queen Mary College, London : Prof. J. R. Partington, M.B.E.

PROF. J. R. PARTINGTON retires this summer from the chair of chemistry at Queen Mary College, University of London, which he has held since 1919, and has been appointed emeritus professor in the University. After graduating at Manchester, where he won the highest academic honours, he worked first with Dixon, and then with Nernst at Berlin, and so founded his lifelong interest in inorganic chemistry and in the physical methods for the study of chemical problems then being newly developed. During the First World War he served in the Army, and later did research work in applied chemistry for the Inventions Department of the Ministry of Munitions, before succeeding Prof. Hewitt at Queen Mary College. To his colleagues in London his outstanding characteristics are, perhaps, first his wide and scholarly knowledge of chemistry, secondly the integrity, precision and good sense with which he has always discharged his University duties, whether as examiner or as member or chairman of University boards and committees, and thirdly his lively and ever-growing interest in the teaching and exposition of chemistry.

Prof. Partington is, of course, well known for his researches on the reactions and constitution of many inorganic compounds, on the properties of gases, on electrochemical problems, on dipole moments of organic liquids, on solubility and various other subjects ; many of them are models of critical thought combined with great experimental skill. His greatest contribution to the development and spread of chemical knowledge probably lies, however, in the books he has written and is writing. Prof. Partington's interest in the history and literature of science, based largely on his own extensive library, is apparent in all his works, and as an authority in this field he is president of the British History of Science Society and a member of the committee of the London Library. Since he intends to continue writing, chemists generally will be happy to know that they are likely for many years to come to have the benefit of his encyclopædic knowledge presented to them with the meticulous clarity and precision they have learned to expect from him.

Dr. M. J. S. Dewar

DR. M. J. S. DEWAR, who succeeds Prof. Partington at Queen Mary College, was educated at Winchester and Balliol College, Oxford. For the past six years he has been working at Messrs. Courtaulds Research Laboratories at Maidenhead. Dr. Dewar has become prominent mainly for his theoretical work in applying wave mechanics to problems of organic chemistry, though in recent years he has also made interesting kinetic studies of polymerization and oxidation processes. His book on "The Electronic Theory of Organic Chemistry" has been one of the most stimulating and controversial contributions to organic chemistry of recent years. In it he has elaborated applications of the wave concept of the probable behaviour of the reactive 'π-electrons' of unsaturated and aromatic systems in the interpretation of the mechanisms of organic reactions, and has shown how these theories can be extended in consideration of the transition states of reacting systems. Undoubtedly the most notable advance in organic chemistry which has resulted from these concepts is the recognition of the aromatic character of the seven-membered ring in tropolone, and of its existence in several natural products, as, for example, colchicine. As yet, few accurate experimental results are available for testing the more quantitative implications of Dr. Dewar's many computations, but it now appears that the modern analytical techniques of isotope analysis and infra-red spectroscopy should facilitate the rapid growth of the more quantitative aspects of organic chemistry to which wave mechanics will provide an essential theoretical background.

Industrial Research in East Africa : Mr. H. B. Stent

MR. H. B. STENT has been appointed director of industrial research in East Africa. This step results from discussion between the East Africa High Commission and the Standing Committee on Finance of the Central Legislative Assembly on ways of speeding up the establishment of an industrial and research organization to provide adequate scientific background for the existing industries in East Africa and to encourage new industrial development. It had first been envisaged that an organization should be established with functions similar to those carried out by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Great Britain. Detailed consideration indicated, however, that it would be more effective to set up an organization mainly confined to matters having a high priority in relation to development in East Africa. Mr. Stent has acted as chairman of the East African Research Board since 1946.

It has also been agreed by the Governments of the three High Commission territories that the present Industrial Research Board should be reconstituted as a Scientific and Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the director. It will consist of