

a group of related heterocyclic compounds formed an integral part of this work, which was pursued after he became director of the Council's Group for Research on Chemotherapy in the Chemistry Department at Manchester. His untimely death on February 7, at the age of forty-three, came when he was starting a new programme in which his experience of natural products and synthetic work would have proved invaluable.

Besides research communications, Dr. Simpson's writings included a book on "Cinnolines, Phthalazines and Quinoxalines", an article on pterins for "Thorpe's Dictionary" and the Heterocyclic Section of the "Annual Reports" (1946); he had previously done editorial work for the Bureau of Abstracts.

Simpson was possessed of boundless intellectual and physical energy, which in research was expended without reservation on the problems in hand. Characteristically, his leisure was spent in an energetic way, fell-walking and playing tennis or badminton; he was a life-long campanologist and an active member of choral societies. His travels in connexion with these pastimes revealed a latent ability as a racing motorist. The intensive use which he made of his own time often made his conversation appear abrupt to those who were not well acquainted with

his manner, but in fact he was always ready to cease work to offer help on problems in which he need have taken no interest. He will be remembered always as a loyal and generous colleague, a man of the highest calibre.

C. M. ATKINSON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. A. E. Cameron, recently reader in entomology in the University of Edinburgh and formerly professor of zoology, University of Saskatchewan, on February 27, aged sixty-four.

Sir Roger Hetherington, C.B., O.B.E., chief engineering inspector, Ministry of Health, during 1930-44, and president in 1947-48 of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on February 24, aged seventy-six.

Sir Charles Sherrington, O.M., G.B.E., F.R.S., past president of the Royal Society, aged ninety-four.

Colonel E. Bright Vedder, sometime senior member of the U.S. Army Board of Research, and later professor of pathology and experimental medicine in George Washington University, known for his work on beriberi and clinical scurvy, on January 30, aged seventy-three.

## NEWS and VIEWS

Chairmanship of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy: Sir Henry Tizard, G.C.B., F.R.S.

SIR HENRY TIZARD will be retiring at the end of March from the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy. The Council was founded in January 1947 as a result of a recommendation of the Barlow Committee, and Sir Henry became its first chairman, a post which he filled concurrently with that of chairman of the Defence Research Policy Committee. To undertake these two tasks Sir Henry resigned from the presidency of Magdalen College, Oxford, an office which he had taken up in 1942. He brought to both posts a considerable knowledge of scientific affairs in government. From the time of the First World War he had been closely connected with the development of the scientific services of the Royal Air Force. He was chairman of the Aeronautical Research Committee during 1933-43, and a member of the Air Council itself in the earlier part of the Second World War. As permanent secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research during 1927-29, he also had a first-hand knowledge of the civil side of government science. It fell to him to establish the Advisory Council as a common meeting ground where advice to the Government on current and prospective demands for scientific workers, on the organization of government science, and on the broad allocation of our scientific resources could be formulated with the participation of the secretaries of the Research Councils, one or two scientific advisers to Ministers, and independent members drawn from among the officers of the Royal Society, the universities, and scientific men in industry. It was necessary to the Advisory Council's success that it should deal with matters of policy which could not be effectively handled by other bodies, while refraining from intervention in the numerous and important problems with which existing bodies could more appropriately deal. Sir Henry Tizard's rare capacities and experience proved equal to the task, and Prof. A. R. Todd,

who follows him, will succeed to the chairmanship of a going concern with a record of achievement and with a high prestige in Whitehall. Sir Henry has now become a director of the National Research Development Corporation, and fortunately is not disappearing entirely from public life.

Prof. A. R. Todd, F.R.S.

PROF. A. R. TODD, who has been appointed to succeed Sir Henry Tizard as chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy, has been professor of organic chemistry in the University of Cambridge since 1944, an appointment to which he moved after occupying the Samuel Hall chair of chemistry in the University of Manchester during 1938-44. Prof. Todd is an organic chemist of great distinction. He has made outstanding contributions to the chemistry of complex molecules of great current interest in biology. Among his many achievements are the synthesis of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, and the determination of the structure and the synthesis of vitamin E. He has also made very important strides in determining the structure of such degradation products of nucleic acids as purines, pyrimidines, nucleosides and nucleotides. More recently he has turned his attention to the chemistry of the adrenocorticotrophic hormone (A.C.T.H.). Prof. Todd returns to the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy after a gap of a year, having been one of the original members appointed in 1947. Unlike his predecessor, Sir Henry Tizard, he will not leave his University but will continue to give full-time direction to his Department in Cambridge. He will be enabled to do this partly by resigning from certain other official committees and partly as a result of recent developments which have led to much of the detailed work of the Advisory Council being done by its committees under the general supervision of the whole body. Prof. Todd will also be free of the heavy responsibilities of the chairmanship of the Defence Research Policy Committee,