

particular achievements was the demonstration of vasodilatation in fainting subjects and the part played by complete immobility when soldiers fainted on parade. He demonstrated the vascular reflex abnormalities in patients with tabes dorsalis, diabetes and barbiturate intoxication. This led to the simple treatment of the latter group of patients by blood volume expansion when they lapsed into a hypotensive state. Of recent years his dominant interest has been in the control of venous tone, and this led him on to the vascular changes during exercise. For months on end he would talk to all and sundry about this problem until he found at least a partial answer in the realm of chemistry. This was rather unfamiliar territory to him and he soon enlisted the assistance of one of his staff in a series of conclusive investigations.

When Prof. Sharpey-Schafer first arrived at St. Thomas's Hospital he and his staff were thought of as experimentalists. He had an uphill task in earning the esteem and respect of the clinically orientated members of the nursing and medical staff. As the years passed he became more and more valued for his judgement both of individuals and of problems. Of the many people who sought his help and advice, not one was let down. The references he wrote for the junior members of the hospital staff sparkled with wit and impressed themselves on the

reader by their originality. No idle clichés were ever found in these or any other of his writings.

Perhaps one of the most striking aspects of the personality of Prof. Sharpey-Schafer was his attitude to orthodoxy. He declared that he had an abhorrence for the whole of the pharmacopœia, and on one occasion to stress the point he crossed off all the drugs on his patients' treatment cards. He delighted in poking fun at the Establishment and in *Who's Who* stated that his recreation was "childish pursuits". In fact, he was a keen and accomplished naturalist and photographer, and when he produced a new batch of his colour photographs of birds or insects he was armed also with all the fascinating details of their life-habits, such as the speed of their wing beats, time and place of emergence, etc.

Those who knew "Sharpey" well appreciated the warmth of his character, his unflinching loyalty and the high standards which he demanded of everyone engaged in research. He was a man who always kept to his word and who could be relied on to help anyone who was in need. He will be an inspiration to all those who worked with him, but few will reach the standards which he achieved.

Prof. Sharpey-Schafer leaves a son and daughter by his first marriage. He married Dr. Sheila Howarth and they had two daughters.

IVOR H. MILLS

NEWS and VIEWS

School of Science: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

DR. JEROME B. WIESNER has been appointed Dean of the School of Science in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Wiesner, now special assistant for science and technology and director of the U.S. Office of Science and Technology, will succeed Dr. George R. Harrison, who will retire at the end of this year.

Dr. G. R. Harrison

DR. HARRISON graduated from Stanford University and received his Ph.D. degree there in 1922 while an instructor in physics. After two years as a National Research Fellow at Harvard University he returned to the Stanford faculty and remained there until his appointment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1930. He was director of the Research Laboratory of Experimental Physics for twelve years before becoming dean of the School of Science in 1942. In spectroscopy, his field of specialization, Dr. Harrison invented several instruments of great value and compiled the *M.I.T. Wavelength Tables*, an encyclopædic work used by spectroscopists throughout the world. He was editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, co-author of *Practical Spectroscopy* and author of *Atoms In Action*, *What Man May Be*, and other books. During the Second World War, Dr. Harrison was chairman of the Instruments Section, and later chief of the Optics Division of the National Defense Research Committee, Office of Scientific Research and Development, and, for a time, chief of the Research Division at General MacArthur's headquarters in the south-west Pacific. He received the War Department Medal of Freedom and Presidential Medal for Merit. He was awarded the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Frederic Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America, the Elliott Cresson Medal of the Franklin Institute and the Medal of the Society of Applied Spectroscopy.

Dr. J. B. Wiesner

DR. WIESNER received bachelor of science, master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Michigan. In 1940 he was appointed chief engineer

of the Acoustical and Record Laboratory of the Library of Congress and in 1942 went to the Radiation Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was a member of the Microwave Components Division and then group leader of 'Project Cadillac', assigned to devise an airborne radar system. After the War, Dr. Wiesner spent a year at Los Alamos, returning to the Institute as assistant professor of electrical engineering. He was made an associate professor in 1947, professor in 1950 and Institute professor in 1962. In 1947 he became assistant director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics; in 1949, associate director, and in 1952, director. He was appointed acting head of the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1959. Dr. Wiesner's scientific contributions, particularly in the field of microwave theory, have been notable. He was chairman of the Institute's steering committee for a Center for Communication Sciences established in 1958. Dr. Wiesner was staff director of the American delegation to the Geneva Conference for the Prevention of a Surprise Attack in 1958, and for a number of years he has devoted much effort to the search for methods of arms control. Already a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee, he went on leave from the Institute in 1960 to become special assistant for science and technology to President Kennedy. He was also made director of the Office of Science and Technology when that agency was established in 1962. He has received the President's Certificate of Merit and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Isotopes": the Fiftieth Anniversary

ON December 4 the Chemical Society (president, Prof. J. Monteath Robertson) will meet in the Department of Chemistry, University of Glasgow, to commemorate Frederic Soddy's communication in *Nature* of exactly fifty years ago (92, 399; December 4, 1913). Soddy was then working in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory of the University of Glasgow. This was a time of intense research and rapid advance in all fields of radioactivity. Although priority issues are inevitably debatable, it remains evident that the University of Glasgow made an