

Mr. R. H. Hodgkin

MR. ROBERT HOWARD HODGKIN, who has been elected provost of Queen's College, Oxford, to succeed the late Canon Streeter, had retired from Oxford at the end of last term, relinquishing the position of senior history tutor of Queen's College, which he had held since 1910. Mr. Hodgkin is now in his sixty-first year. He was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on April 24, 1877, the son of Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, a banker and distinguished historian of Europe in the Middle Ages. Mr. Hodgkin was educated at Repton, Leighton Park School, Reading, and Balliol College, Oxford, taking first-class honours in the Final School of Modern History. He was appointed lecturer in modern history of Queen's College in 1900; and was University lecturer in modern history in 1928-34. His most considerable contribution to historical literature is his "History of the Anglo-Saxons" (1935), in which the scientific data of anthropology and archaeology are drawn upon to the full to serve the purpose of historical research. Although a member of a distinguished Quaker family, Mr. Hodgkin held a commission in the 1st V.B. Northumberland Fusiliers for some years, and thereupon was obliged to withdraw from the Society of Friends. During the Great War he served as captain in the Seventh Battalion of his old regiment, and on the General Staff (Operations) at the War Office.

Evans' Biological Institute

A COMPANY of some seventy-five medical men attended the Evans' Biological Institute at Runcorn, Cheshire, on October 7, when an extension was formally opened by Lord Derby. In introducing Lord Derby to the company, Mr. T. Edward Lescher directed attention to the fact that the organization known as Evans' Biological Institute is the result of continuous development during the last twenty-five years, and that it originated as a laboratory and farm station in connexion with the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology under the aegis of the University of Liverpool. It was in 1903 that Prof. (afterwards Sir Rupert) Boyce, professor of pathology, and Prof. (now Sir Charles) Sherrington, professor of physiology, together with Dr. H. E. Annett, then lecturer on comparative pathology, conceived the idea of establishing a farm station at Higher Runcorn for the study of comparative pathology. Included in the committee of management was Mr. J. J. Evans, the first chairman of Evans Sons Lescher and Webb, Ltd., and his son Mr. J. H. E. Evans, who is the present chairman of the company. Shortly before the Great War, the University was compelled to relinquish activities at Runcorn, and the laboratories and farm station and laboratory personnel were taken over by the above firm. Although to some extent the activities were restricted during the War and for some years afterwards, valuable work was done and much experience gained. Gradually the scope of the work carried on was extended and accommodation increased, and in 1928 a commodious new building, containing up-to-date laboratories and equipment, was erected. Additional stables were

erected in due course, and this year another new building has been completed.

DURING all these years, the work originated by the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology has been continued at Runcorn along similar lines. A close study is made of the vital processes of living organisms, in the hope of evolving measures for the prevention of disease rather than the introduction of new palliative measures for use in treatment. In recent months the scope of the research work carried on at the Institute has been extended to chemotherapy, as it was discovered in 1935 that it is possible to control streptococcal infections by means of an important new drug intended for use in the treatment of various bacterial infections. The Institute is licensed under the Therapeutic Substances Regulations and thus is intimately linked with the Ministry of Health administration. Under these regulations, practically all the products with which the Institute is associated must maintain a very high standard. It has always been insisted upon that research and production should be conducted on strictly ethical lines, and no consideration has allowed any alteration to this policy. Lord Derby said that he felt it was a privilege to be associated with the opening ceremony, especially as in his office as chancellor of the University of Liverpool he knew those who were originally connected with the work. He looked forward to the research activities of the present staff leading to the introduction of still better ways of dealing with disease.

Historical Relations of Pharmacy and Physic

THE historical relation of pharmacy and physic was the subject of Sir Humphry Rolleston's address at the opening of the ninety-sixth session of the College of the Pharmaceutical Society. He showed how, in the field of medicine, as in most other fields, evolution has brought with it specialization, and that among the roots of the tree of medical knowledge is the legend of Cosmos and Damian, the patron saints whom pharmacy shares with medicine, surgery, barbery and midwifery as evidence of their common origin. The process of decentralization and specialization of medicine has been repeated at very different dates in the world's chronology. In Egypt medical specialism had reached its acme in the fifth century B.C. when every medical man confined his activities to one disease. On the other hand, in Europe it is difficult to trace a distinction between medical practitioners and the representatives of modern pharmacists until the approach of the Renaissance. In Great Britain, the process of specialization and separation was slow and painful. From so early as 1447, the Grocers Company in the City of London had the right of inspecting shops for the sale of drugs, ointments and plasters, and its members were the recognized drug sellers of the day. From the specialist grocer the apothecary developed and in due time became a thorn in the flesh of the physicians, so that in 1540 the Royal College of Physicians obtained the power to "search, view and see the apothecaries' wares, drugs and stuffs". The apothecaries, balancing