

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## The Royal Visit to America

THEIR MAJESTIES were greeted on their return to England on June 22 and again on their drive to, and from, the Guildhall in the City of London on the following day with enthusiasm which needed no pageantry, no ceremonial, to quicken its sense of the significance of the events of the brief period which have elapsed since the King and Queen sailed for Canada on May 6. King George and his Consort were being hailed as conquerors—conquerors of a continent—no less certainly than were those of their predecessors, who in days gone by had passed through Temple Bar to celebrate a victory in the capital city. In this enthusiastic, but intimate, greeting of King and Queen there was a deep and strong undercurrent of loyal gratitude to them that in their journey from one end to the other of the vast Dominion of Canada, and no less in their visit to its great neighbour, the United States of America, their Majesties had so borne themselves that personal devotion to those wearing the Crown and a spirit of kindly hospitality to honoured guests had been transmuted to a deeper consciousness of the common devotion of all, President and citizen, Sovereign and subject alike, to the ideals of liberty and justice which transcend birth, creed and the barriers of national division in a supreme loyalty to the cause of humanity. In all the ceremonies and incidents of the Royal tour which, as His Majesty said at the Guildhall with a homely but happy touch of common interests, have been made "familiar . . . through the daily press, the news reels, and the Broadcasting Corporations", none was so deeply charged with emotion, none so moving to those gifted with historical imagination, as the simple scene in which King George laid a wreath upon the tomb of George Washington. This act of homage epitomizes as a symbol a memorable episode in the history of the British Commonwealth of Nations no less surely than His Majesty's impression of his experience, summed up in the memorable words "the strength of human feeling is still the most potent of all the forces affecting world affairs".

## Pilgrim Trust Lecture

THE Pilgrim Trust Lectures, administered jointly by the Royal Society and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, were inaugurated last December by a notable lecture delivered by Dr. Irving Langmuir in the theatre of the Royal Institution, London. The selection of the lecturer for the second of the series was in the hands of the Royal Society, which decided, most appropriately, to send its president, Sir William Bragg, as the ambassador of science in Great Britain to the United States. Sir William visited the United States during the spring, and on April 24, in the course of the annual meeting at Washington of the National Academy of Sciences, delivered the second Pilgrim Trust Lecture, which appears on p. 21 of this issue of NATURE. The

effect of science upon social conditions formed the theme of Sir William's address, which he illustrated by dipping into the history of the Royal Society. Starting as a body of 'virtuosi' who met for discussion and experiment about the middle of the seventeenth century, the Royal Society early became concerned in problems of interest to a wider circle and to the State. Inquiries submitted to correspondents, their reports, and papers read before the Society, illustrate the effects of science upon society and conversely, of the circumstances of the times upon scientific investigations. Sir William leads up to an eloquent plea for the earnest consideration of current affairs in the spirit of science, which links up with the efforts of the Division for Social and International Relations of Science of the British Association; the Manchester meeting of the latter referred to on p. 1 of this issue deals specifically with some social aspects of scientific research, while Sir William points the moral on the wider issue.

## Mr. M. G. Evans

THE chair of physical chemistry in the University of Leeds which fell vacant by the death of Prof. H. M. Dawson in February last, has been filled as from October 1 by the appointment of Mr. M. G. Evans, lecturer in chemistry in the University of Manchester. Born on December 2, 1904, he was educated at Leigh Grammar School and passed through the University of Manchester, where he was a pupil of Prof. A. Lapworth. While Prof. Hugh S. Taylor of Princeton was staying as a visitor for one term at the University of Manchester in 1931, Mr. Evans joined him in research on adsorption, and he renewed this connexion later by working for one year in the Frick Chemical Laboratory in Princeton, where he was closely associated with Prof. Henry Eyring. Since his return to Manchester in 1934, Mr. Evans has steadily developed his theoretical investigations on the mechanism of chemical reactions. During this time he has richly contributed to the fund of ideas which, it is the hope of the younger school of physical chemistry, promises to form a pattern for the understanding of at least the simpler types of reactions. Though Mr. Evans's principal contributions to science are in the theoretical field, he also took active interest in the experimental work carried on in Manchester. His appointment to one of the three chairs in the Department of Chemistry in Leeds is a significant recognition of the part which the new theories originating from quantum mechanics have to play in the life of chemistry to-day.

## Dr. J. B. Speakman

THE appointment of Dr. J. B. Speakman to the chair of textile industries of the University of Leeds will afford pleasure to the many admirers of his work on the structure and properties of the wool fibre. Dr. Speakman is a graduate and D.Sc. of the University

of Manchester, where, except for a period of war service, he spent the years 1915-1920. His next three years were passed at Eton with Prof. R. Whytlaw-Gray, carrying out research on aerosols for the Chemical Warfare Committee. Since 1925 he has been in charge of the Textile Chemistry Laboratory of the University of Leeds, where he was appointed lecturer in 1925 and reader in 1937. Dr. Speakman has been awarded the Warner Memorial Medal of the Textile Institute, and three times he has been the recipient of the Research Medal of the Worshipful Company of Dyers. He has also served for a dozen years on the council of the Textile Institute, and on the Publications Committees of the Textile Institute and the Society of Dyers and Colourists. Under his direction, the Leeds Textile Chemistry Laboratory has attained a high and well-deserved reputation, and his new appointment will undoubtedly lead to still wider successes in his chosen field.

#### Dr. R. G. S. Hudson

DR. R. G. S. HUDSON has been appointed to succeed Prof. A. Gilligan as professor of geology in the University of Leeds. Dr. Hudson studied geology at University College, London, under Prof. E. J. Garwood. He later joined the staff of the Geological Department at University College and commenced research on the fauna of the Yoredale Series. He continued his interest in Carboniferous stratigraphy after his appointment in 1922 to the geological staff of the University of Leeds. The greater part of his work has dealt with the Dinantian and Namurian of Yorkshire especially with the relation between the various facies and faunal assemblages. He early demonstrated the unconformable junction between the Lower and Upper Carboniferous of Yorkshire; later, with Dr. G. H. Mitchell he described the geology of the Skipton anticline, and with the aid of various grants put down a boring in that area to the base of the Carboniferous. He has devoted attention to the Variscan orogeny and its control of sedimentation. His interest in the fauna of the Carboniferous has resulted in the description of new genera and species of corals such as *Rylstonia*, *Rhopalolasma*, and various species of *Orionastræa*. In 1931, Dr. Hudson was awarded the Wollaston Fund of the Geological Society and has served on the Council of that society. He has also been secretary of various committees of Section C, British Association, and is now joint secretary of that section. Dr. Hudson has taken considerable part in the organization of the geological societies in Yorkshire, and for some years has been editor of the *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society* and the *Transactions of the Leeds Geological Society*.

#### Imperial Cancer Research Fund: New Laboratories

THE new laboratories of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund were opened on June 27 (see also p. 41). Sir Humphry Rolleston, chairman of the Executive Committee, read a message of regret from Lord Halifax, president of the Fund, who at the last moment had found himself unable to attend. Lord Halifax

said that all would appreciate that at the present time he is even more than usually subject to sudden and unavoidable calls on his time and that although he ought not, perhaps, to have agreed to open the new laboratories he had been particularly anxious to do so. Lord Halifax sent the notes which he had prepared for his speech, in which he reviewed the history of the foundation of the Fund and its progress. He referred to the many famous men, including Lord Lister, A. J. Balfour and Joseph Chamberlain, who helped the Fund and mentioned the policy of collaboration with all organizations at home and abroad which has been followed throughout the thirty-seven years of the Fund's existence. An address on "Scientific Aspects of Cancer Research" was delivered by Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, whose theme was the importance of laboratory effort in cancer research. He expressed his own faith that each increase in accommodation provided for skilled laboratory effort has never failed to be justified by its results. Sir Frederick described the distinguished past of the Fund and stated his confidence in a future of continued and eminent success. A vote of thanks to Sir Frederick was proposed by Sir Robert Hutchison, president of the Royal College of Physicians and seconded by Mr. Hugh Lett, president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

THE laboratories, designed by Messrs. Lanchester and Lodge, occupy an open position on the Ridgeway at Mill Hill. The three-storied main building is built in T-form with a central staircase; the corridors, as a result, are short and well-lighted. A goods lift serves one wing which is devoted mainly to animal rooms, stores and service rooms. The library, offices, one large laboratory, a room for X-ray equipment, centrifuge room, workshops and stores are on the ground floor. The first floor comprises a large chemical laboratory with a smaller laboratory adjoining, five other private laboratories, photographic room, sterilizing room and animal rooms. The Director's office and laboratory are on the second floor, where there are three other laboratories, operating room, histological room and animal rooms. There is a cold room in the basement. The laboratories vary in size; some are suitable for one worker using simple equipment; others can accommodate two or three workers or bulky apparatus. Most of the rooms have one high and one low bench each with a sink supplied with mains pressure water and hot water; gas and 5 and 10 amp. electric points are provided. The natural lighting, by large windows, is notably good. Artificial light is supplied by central pendants and supplemented, wherever required, by Anglepoise table lamps. Elaboration of structure and equipment has been avoided in favour of adaptability to varied needs. A detached animal house is designed for work with the larger animals; provision is made for the maintenance of fowls and the normal stock of rabbits and guinea pigs. Other animals, as required, are accommodated in out-houses. There are six acres of land available for pens, grazing and the cultivation of food crops for animals.