

NEWS AND VIEWS

Prof. F. C. Minett

FRANCIS COLIN MINETT, who has just been appointed director of the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute of the Government of India, was educated at King Edward's School, Bath, from 1899 until 1907, and in the latter year entered the Royal Veterinary College. Two years after obtaining the diploma of membership of the College, he was awarded a Ministry of Agriculture research scholarship and studied at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and at the Veterinary School in Alfort. On the outbreak of the Great War, he joined the R.A.V.C. and proceeded to France with the Expeditionary Force. In the following year he returned to Aldershot, where he was engaged in research and in the preparation of mallein for the diagnosis of glanders—at that time a problem of urgent military importance. From 1921 until 1924 he served in Egypt, and in the latter year resigned his commission upon receiving an appointment under the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Committee. He was awarded the D.Sc. in veterinary science of the University of London in 1927, and in the same year, upon the retirement of Sir John McFadyean, was appointed director of the Research Institute in Animal Pathology at the Royal Veterinary College, and, in 1933, when the posts became amalgamated, he was appointed professor of pathology and director of the Research Institute.

DURING the past twelve years, Prof. Minett has contributed generously to the study of many problems associated more particularly with diseases of economic importance among farm animals. In this connexion, special reference should be made to his work upon bovine mastitis, Johne's disease and contagious abortion of cattle, as a result of which, measures for the more effective control of these diseases have been established. Important as his researches have been, it is safe to say that one of his chief claims to recognition lies in his ability as a teacher. Indirectly, as well as by direct contact with his students and junior members of his research staff, he has advanced the study of veterinary pathology to a marked degree.

Bicentenary of Du Fay (1698-1739)

ON July 16, 1739, the death occurred of the French man of science, Charles-Francois de Cisternay du Fay, who though he wrote memoirs on many subjects and was superintendent of the Jardin des Plantes, is remembered to-day for his electrical experiments and observations. Born in Paris on September 14, 1698, he was an officer in the French Guards, and for a time followed a military career. Ill-health, however, led to his resignation and he then turned to literary and scientific pursuits. He was admitted to the Academy of Sciences in 1733 and contributed papers on geometry, astronomy, mechanics, chemistry and botany. He was especially interested in the electrical experiments of Stephen Gray, and suspending himself

by silk cords, as described by Gray, he observed that when he was electrified, and another person came near, there issued from his body pricking shoots, making a crackling noise. The Abbé Nollet (1700-70) was associated with these experiments, which he afterwards extended. Du Fay also discovered two kinds of electricity which he named the *vitreous* and *resinous*, and he made attempts to formulate a theory of electric phenomena. A man of great industry, as superintendent of the Jardin des Plantes he did much to rescue that institution from neglect, and it was through him that Buffon became his successor.

Julius Cohnheim (1839-1884)

PROF. JULIUS COHNHEIM, the eminent experimental pathologist, was born on July 20, 1839, at Demmin in Pomerania. He studied medicine at the universities of Würzburg, Marburg, Greifswald and Berlin, where he qualified in 1861 with a thesis on suppuration in serous membranes. After acting as an assistant to Virchow in Berlin and serving as an army surgeon in the war with Austria, he was appointed professor of morbid anatomy at Kiel, where he remained until 1872. He was then transferred in a similar capacity to Breslau and finally occupied the corresponding chair at Leipzig in 1878, where he stayed until his death six years later. Cohnheim was a highly skilled technician, and made several valuable contributions to microscopical science, among which may be mentioned his methods for demonstrating the nerve endings in the cornea, the structure of striated muscle and the phenomena of inflammation. His successful inoculation in 1868 of tuberculosis in the anterior chamber of a rabbit's eye, thus proving the disease to be infectious, is an important landmark in the history of tuberculosis. His principal literary work is represented by his lectures on general pathology published in 1877-80 and translated in 1888-90 in the New Sydenham Society's publications, in which he dealt with the pathology of the circulation, nutrition, digestion, respiration, genito-urinary organs and animal heat. He also published several valuable articles on malignant growths, trichinosis and the bone marrow in anæmia. His stimulating lectures attracted a large number of students from all parts of Germany, and he had many men who later became eminent among his audience, including Heidenhain, Litten, Welch and Neisser at Breslau and Roy and Councilman at Leipzig. He died at the early age of forty-five years on August 15, 1884, from the effects of gout.

New Long-Distance Air Liner

PRELIMINARY details of a new civil transport aeroplane, the Fairey C.I., have just been made public. It is a low-wing monoplane fitted with four Bristol 'Persus' sleeve-valve engines of 1000 h.p. each. The body is of a circular section monocoque construction, arranged to carry thirty passengers.