

NEWS AND VIEWS

Scientific Advisory Committee on the Nation's Food

THE Lord Privy Seal, as chairman of the Food Policy Committee of the War Cabinet, has appointed a committee "to consider and advise upon problems of national food requirements and of home food production with special regard to the shipping and foreign exchange likely to be available for imports of food and animal feeding-stuffs, and the labour and other resources likely to be available for home production".

The committee has been constituted as follows:
Chairman, Sir William Bragg, president of the Royal Society and director of the Royal Institution;
Deputy Chairman, Sir Alan Anderson;
Members, Prof. A. W. Ashby, professor of agricultural economics, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Prof. E. P. Cathcart, F.R.S., regius professor of physiology, University of Glasgow; Dr. Henry Clay, formerly professor of social economics, University of Manchester; Prof. F. L. Engledow, F.R.S., professor of agriculture, University of Cambridge; Mr. W. Gavin, agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Sir Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., secretary of the Medical Research Council; Sir John Boyd Orr, F.R.S., director of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen; Prof. J. A. Scott-Watson, professor of rural economy, University of Oxford; *Secretary*, Prof. D. M. S. Watson, F.R.S., Jodrell professor of zoology and comparative anatomy, University College, London, and member of the Agricultural Research Council.

Chair of Physics at Sheffield: Dr. W. Sucksmith, F.R.S.

DR. W. SUCKSMITH, reader in magnetism in the University of Bristol, has been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Sheffield. Dr. Sucksmith was educated at Hipperholme Grammar School and the University of Leeds where, after four years of service with the Army in the War of 1914-18, he graduated with first class honours in physics in 1921. He then joined the staff of the University of Bristol as assistant lecturer in physics, and was appointed lecturer in 1924 and reader in magnetism in 1939. He was awarded the D.Sc. degree of the University of Leeds in 1930, and has

been elected a fellow of the Royal Society this year. Dr. Sucksmith is particularly distinguished for his work in experimental magnetism. Following a determination of the gyromagnetic ratio for ferromagnetic substances by the direct measurement of the mechanical rotation which accompanies magnetization, carried out by Chattock and Bates at Bristol, he confirmed their results with a null method. He later extended his measurements to deal with paramagnetic substances.

This required experimental skill of a very high order, as the measurements were very much more difficult than those with ferromagnetic substances. In the course of this work it was necessary to measure the susceptibilities of paramagnetic oxides, and to this we owe the design of the Sucksmith ring balance, which has proved useful in many researches.

During the session 1933-34 Dr. Sucksmith held a Rockefeller fellowship at the Federal Technical College in Zurich, where he measured the gyromagnetic ratio for a series of nickel-copper alloys with low Curie points at temperatures above the latter, using the technique previously employed with paramagnetic oxides. Dr.

Sucksmith has also made substantial contributions to our knowledge of the specific heats of ferromagnetic substances and of the magnetic properties of single crystals of nickel. More recently he has been engaged on experiments on the magnetic properties of ferromagnetic substances at high temperatures and on the saturation intensities of magnetization of a large number of ferromagnetic alloys, in which his ring balance has again been put to good use. Since 1937 he has been a member of the Permanent Magnet Subcommittee of the Electrical Research Association.

Prof. S. R. Milner, F.R.S.

WITH the retirement in September of Prof. S. R. Milner, F.R.S., from the chair of physics, the University of Sheffield will lose the services of an eminent man of science and of an outstanding personality, who, during the past forty years, has been untiring in his efforts alike for the advancement of science, for his students, and for the University. A Yorkshireman by birth, Milner spent his early years in Retford, where he attended the King Edward VI

FOR purposes of economy, the sections "Seventy Years Ago" and "Points from Letters" will be suspended after the termination of the present volume of NATURE, that is, June 29.

The Editors are particularly anxious to maintain the amount of space devoted to the more important sections of the journal. This applies especially to the correspondence columns; and, here, contributors are again asked to collaborate by reducing their communications to the absolute minimum. Letters should not exceed five hundred words in length, which corresponds to a column of text.

Monthly supplements of Short Reviews will also be suspended.

School. He then became a science student at University College, Bristol, and graduated from there in 1895. He spent two post-graduate years as an 1851 Royal Exhibition Scholar working under the late Prof. A. P. Chattock, for whom he has always retained warm feelings of admiration and affection, and a third year under Prof. Nernst at the Institut für physikalische Chemie in the University of Göttingen. During 1898–1900 he was a demonstrator in physics at the University of Manchester, and he recalls with pride that Sir Arthur Eddington was one of his students there. Milner left Manchester to take up a lectureship in physics at Firth College, later the University of Sheffield, under Prof. W. M. Hicks, who was successively principal of the College and the first vice-chancellor of the University, so that much of the work and organization of the department fell to Milner's lot. During the War of 1914–18 he served as assistant radiographer to the Third Northern General Hospital until 1917, when he was appointed acting professor of physics, on Prof. Hicks vacating the chair. Since 1921 he has been professor of physics, and in 1922 he was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society.

In his research activities, Prof. Milner has shown himself to be a physicist in the widest sense, his researches having ranged over many fields, only some of which can be mentioned here. His earliest work was on the thermal conductivity of water (with Prof. Chattock). Later work was concerned with interference phenomena, with the non-reversible character of the formation of soap films, with the electric discharge in mercury vapour (in which connexion he discovered the principal series of mercury), and with the mechanism of the spark discharge, involving the analysis of lines in a rotating mirror and the characteristics of the oscillatory spark. By his pioneer work on the theory of strong electrolytes he anticipated the work of Debye. His more recent work has been concerned with the properties of the electromagnetic field in four dimensions, especially the theory of tubes of force and action in their four-dimensional aspects, and with the properties of Eddington's wave matrices. An experimentalist of no mean order, Prof. Milner is also a self-made theoretical physicist, so that his approach to theoretical work is always characterized by the physical rather than the purely mathematical outlook. Primarily due to this fact he has the rare ability of presenting intelligibly abstruse advances in modern physical theory to a general scientific audience. Many of his old students now occupy prominent positions in the scientific world, and all who know him or his work will join in wishing him many years of happiness and good health in his retirement.

Dr. W. L. H. Duckworth

THE election of Dr. Wynfrid Laurence Henry Duckworth to be Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, which was announced on May 28, is a well-deserved recognition of a devotion to the service of his College and University which is well-nigh lifelong. Dr. Duckworth, who is reader in anatomy, went to the

University as a scholar of Jesus College, after receiving his earlier education in Birkenhead and at Dinan, Brittany. He graduated with first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1892–93, and during 1898–1920 was University lecturer in physical anthropology. His laboratory demonstrations and organization and arrangement of the museum specimens which came within his province contributed markedly to placing the Cambridge school in a unique position in anthropological studies; while so long ago as 1902, Dr. Duckworth's merit as an original thinker and teacher in anthropology were widely recognized on the publication of his two books "Morphology and Anthropology" and "Studies from the Anthropological Laboratory" (Cambridge). In the same year Dr. Duckworth was invited by a committee of the British Association to join the archæological expedition then excavating in Crete, for the purpose of investigating the racial characters of the ancient and modern inhabitants of the island. The report which he eventually produced is still of standard authority on this question. Dr. Duckworth, who was born on June 5, 1870, represented his University on the General Medical Council during 1923–26.

Colonial Development and Allied Co-operation

CERTAIN matters of no little moment in relation to scientific research and its application to problems of Colonial development were mentioned in the debate on the second reading of Mr. Malcolm MacDonald's Bill to which it was not possible to refer in NATURE of June 1 (see p. 853). Mr. MacDonald had stressed the facilities which the Bill would afford not only in erecting buildings for clinics, hospitals and schools, to which grants under the existing Colonial Development Act are confined, but also in assisting their maintenance after erection, as well as steadily increasing the opportunities for medical and veterinary research and of health measures of all kinds. The importance of the assistance in maintenance was more fully brought out by Sir Francis Fremantle, who stressed its importance in relation to education, which he urged should be directed towards the objects which appealed to the natives, namely, agriculture and health. His experience as a sanitary officer in Mesopotamia during the War of 1914–18 brought him into relation with various races whose intelligence—even of the most primitive of them—in malaria prevention after even a short course of instruction had astonished him. After referring to the results and needs of research on leprosy, he went on to point to the achievement on exiguous resources of small hospitals and clinics in Zuzuland. In research he urged that a great deal could be done in regard to the native population, especially in the matter of psychology.

An important aspect of the problems to which research in Africa, for example, will be directed was presented by Sir Jocelyn Lucas, who, in speaking of progress in the study of tropical diseases, stressed the importance in this, as well as in other respects, of co-operation with our French Allies. How far the War has fostered co-operation between French and