

appear in a clearer light than they do at home, even if differing only in degree. His experience of biology in education in England should help to give a fresh interpretation to teaching practice in the Colonial Empire. Mr. Hawkins is to be succeeded by Mr. H. C. Bibby. Mr. Bibby entered Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1931 and became College Prizeman in 1933, graduating in 1935. He has examined the flora of the hot springs of Iceland, and was awarded the degree of M.Sc. of the University of Liverpool for ecological research. He is the author of research papers and nature study articles. He has been science master in Oulton School, Liverpool, and senior biology master in Chesterfield Grammar School. He has the advantage of considerable experience in organizing camps and in various other forms of youth work. His appointment to Mr. Hawkins's important though difficult post seems a very happy one.

Presidency of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

MR. ASA BINNS, the retiring president of the Institution, was born in Keighley, Yorkshire, in 1873, and was educated at the Grammar School, Keighley, and at the University of Leeds. His workshop training was obtained at the works of Messrs. Tannett Walker and Company, Leeds, and Messrs. Cole, Marchent, and Morley, Ltd., Bradford. After a period as draughtsman in Ipswich with Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Jefferies, he joined the staff of the Hull docks of the then North Eastern Railway in 1898, thus beginning an association with dock work which has since been continuous. A few years were spent with the Admiralty Works Department, and in 1906 Mr. Binns was appointed to the London and India Docks Company, and remained with the Company's successor, the Port of London Authority, until his retirement from the post of chief engineer in 1938, when he was retained as consultant. He is now consultant to Messrs. Rendel, Palmer, and Tritton, consulting engineers. He has been a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers since 1902. He contributed a paper on "Recent Developments in the Mechanical Equipment of the Port of London Authority" (*Proc.*, 122, 575; 1932) which was presented in May 1932 at the spring meeting of the Institution in London. Mr. Binns became a Whitworth exhibitor in 1896.

Mr. W. A. Stanier has been elected to succeed Mr. Binns as president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has been a member of Council of the Institution for many years. He served his apprenticeship with the Great Western Railway at Swindon, and reached the position of principal assistant to the Chief Mechanical Engineer of that Company. His outstanding ability as a locomotive engineer was emphasized by a striking decision of Lord Stamp in appointing him chief mechanical engineer of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, straight from his position as principal assistant at Swindon. It is particularly fitting that the chief locomotive engineers of Great Britain should follow their famous predecessor, George Stephenson, in the president's chair.

The Right Hon. Lord Harlech, G.C.M.G.

WHEN Lord Harlech takes up the office of High Commissioner in South Africa, to which his appointment was announced on February 21, he will enter upon his duties with a long experience of affairs and a judgment matured and affirmed by an intimate knowledge of the problems of British dependencies, and more especially of those of Africa, such as has been possessed by none of his predecessors in this high and important position. As the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, after serving as intelligence officer in the Arab Bureau and assistant political officer on the staff in the Middle East during the War of 1914-18, and holding several minor but important political appointments in the early years which followed the armistice, he became successively Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Postmaster-General, First Commissioner of Works and Secretary of State for the Colonies. In the office last named he brought to the problems of the colonial dependencies the firm conviction that scientific study and the application of the results of scientific research are essential to promote the prosperity of the Colonies themselves, and advance the interests and well-being of the inhabitants, whether European or indigenous.

Lord Harlech's acquaintance with conditions in the dependencies, gained by a personal inspection in most of them, was wider in range than that of any of his predecessors in office, and where Africa was concerned was reinforced by the detailed knowledge which had come with his experience as chairman of the East African Parliamentary Commission of 1924, and as the British representative on the Permanent Mandates Committee of the League of Nations. Lord Harlech's retirement from office after the death of his father in 1938, owing to his increased responsibilities, was felt by his colleagues and by all concerned with or interested in Colonial administration to be a great loss to the public service. His solicitude for the antiquities of England and Wales, and his services to British archaeology while First Commissioner of Works, must be passed over here, but they are well known. Lord Harlech is an elected trustee of the British Museum and chairman of the governing body of the School of Oriental Studies in the University of London. He has also served as president of the Geographical Association and of Section E (Geography) of the British Association, as well as vice-president of the Museums Association.

Materials for Pest Control

IN 1937, several national industrial organizations, being impressed by the disturbing frequency of infestation of warehouses, granaries, mills and other structures of high capital value, and of ships, lighters, rolling stock, sacks and all other equipment essential to storage, process and transport, as well as by the heavy loss in value and destruction of food-stuffs, etc., set up an informal conference, under pledges of co-operation, with the object of establishing improved conditions. Infestation not being inherent in the commodities but being introduced in the links of the chain of trade, it was clearly essential to get