

been the elucidation of the cause of the hæmolytic anæmia of newborn infants; this disease has been found to be due to the production of a lysin in the blood of an *Rh*-negative mother when the fœtus has inherited the *Rh* factor from the father.

The first two papers by Landsteiner and E. Popper on the experimental transmission of poliomyelitis to monkeys appeared in 1908 and 1909, and opened the way to intensive study of the mode of transmission of the causal filterable virus and of its neutralization by a specific immune serum.

During the twenty years between 1917 and 1938, Landsteiner and his co-workers extended the observations of Obermayer and Pick on the changes in the immunological specificity of proteins which result from modifying their chemical and physical structure. This series of researches gave full rein to Landsteiner's creative and analytical powers; in particular, the ingenious experiments with artificially

conjugated antigens and the corresponding immune sera have shed much light on the nature of the serological specificity of proteins and cell antigens.

The last years of his life were devoted to studies on allergic manifestations produced in experimental animals in response to simple chemical compounds such as picric acid and quinine.

The consistently high level of Landsteiner's achievements throughout the long period of his active life makes it natural to imagine that he knew little or nothing of the painful gropings after scientific truth which afflict lesser men. Although his work received recognition in many quarters—he was elected a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1941—he bore himself modestly, and indeed seemed to forget self-interest in his preoccupation with the problems upon which his mind was bent. His name is assured of a permanent place in the records of experimental medicine.

G. F. PETRIE.

NEWS and VIEWS

The Wellcome Foundation: New Research Appointments

DR. C. M. WENYON will be retiring shortly under the age limit from the directorship-in-chief of the Wellcome Research Institution and the directorship of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research. His association with the research laboratories founded by the late Sir Henry Wellcome has extended over thirty-six years, commencing at the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories in Khartoum in 1907. Among his many contributions to the literature of protozoology his "Protozoology—A Manual for Medical Men, Veterinarians and Zoologists" is outstanding. Dr. Charles H. Kellaway, at present director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, Melbourne, has accepted the invitation of the Board of the Foundation to assume the directorship-in-chief of the Wellcome Research Institution and the Foundation's other research laboratories at home and overseas. His appointment will become effective as early in 1944 as the convenience of the governing body of the Hall Institute and transport arrangements from Australia will permit.

Dr. N. Hamilton Fairley will take over the directorship of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research. However, as he is at present Colonel A.A.M.C. and is serving as director of medicine to the Australian Army in the Pacific, he will be unable to proceed to England until a later date. Dr. T. A. Henry will be retiring on August 31, after which the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories (London) will be merged in the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research referred to above. Dr. Henry's work in the field of plant alkaloids is well known, and his book, "The Plant Alkaloids", is regarded as a classic in this field. The laboratories under his direction have always specialized in the chemistry of tropical medical research and will continue to do so.

Dr. Erwin E. Nelson, at present director of pharmacology at Tulane University, New Orleans, has been appointed director of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at Tuckahoe, N.Y. Dr. Nelson, who graduated in medicine at the University of Michigan,

was from 1919 until 1937 assistant professor, associate professor and then professor of pharmacology there. During that time he was lent to the U.S. Government for two years so that he might organize the Pharmacological Department of the Food and Drugs Administration. Plans are in view for the further development of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories at Beckenham under Dr. Sydney Smith, and a considerable expansion of the Foundation's research activities is envisaged for the immediate post-war period. Various changes in the organization of the Laboratories will be made in order that the Foundation's own research plans, as well as those carried on in collaboration with Government Departments, the Therapeutic Research Corporation and other bodies, may be fully realized.

A Staff College for the Civil Service

IN NATURE of May 8 was published a leading article which raised what we regarded, and still regard, as pertinent questions for the committee appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to examine the matter of the training of Civil servants. We pointed to the committee's terms of reference and asked why the possibility of establishing a staff college should have been given special prominence, and we went on to give our views as to why a staff college, *if it be the only means of entry into the service*, may have precisely the results which ought, at all costs, to be avoided. Nothing in what we said, however, decried or was intended to decry the value of a staff college if it be given its proper place in any scheme for the preparation of future administrators. Our point was that such a college should not be allowed to take the place of the universities, the technical colleges and the other educational institutions in which candidates for the Civil Service may gain their first qualifications. We hope, however, that the committee to which we have referred will study carefully a paper on the "Post-Entry Training for Administration from the Industrial Aspect" recently delivered to a conference of the Institute of Public Administration by Mr. E. S. Byng, vice-chairman of Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd.