

NEWS and VIEWS

University of Bristol :

Chair of Chemistry

It has been announced that Dr. Wilson Baker is to succeed Prof. E. L. Hirst as Alfred Capper Pass professor of chemistry in the University of Bristol. Dr. Baker studied in the University of Manchester and, after a period of service in France with the Friends' War Victims Relief Organisation, he obtained the degree of B.Sc. with first-class honours in chemistry in 1921. He then held successively the Mercer scholarship, the Baeyer fellowship and the Dalton scholarship for research in chemistry, and on taking the Ph.D. in 1924 he was appointed assistant lecturer in Manchester. In 1927 he joined the chemistry staff in the University of Oxford and has also held for some time the position of fellow and praefector in chemistry at the Queen's College. He received the degree of D.Sc. (Manchester) in 1933.

Dr. Baker is distinguished as an organic chemist whose work has developed markedly our knowledge of various groups of natural products. Special reference may be made to his contribution to the chemistry of flavones and *iso*-flavones and the polyhydroxybenzenes. In addition to work on natural products, Dr. Baker has made important contributions to the theory of chelated compounds of the aromatic series, and has given attention to the study of condensation products of phenols with ketones. Along with Mr. T. W. J. Taylor, he undertook a revision of Sidgwick's "Organic Chemistry of Nitrogen", the new edition of which was published in 1937. Dr. Baker hopes to commence his work in Bristol at the beginning of January 1945.

Chair of Civil Engineering

THE appointment of Dr. A. G. Pugsley to the chair of civil engineering at the University of Bristol has been announced. As an acknowledged authority on structures, he will be able to maintain a tradition established by his predecessors, J. F. Baker and A. J. Sutton Pippard. Dr. Pugsley was educated at Rutlish School, Merton, took his London degree in engineering at the Battersea Polytechnic, and followed this by an apprenticeship to civil engineering at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, under Colonel H. Mitchell. He then joined the staff of the Royal Airship Works, Cardington, and was engaged upon problems of structural design until the establishment was broken up by the Government's decision to discontinue airship development following the accidental loss of the *R.101*. He transferred to similar work on heavier-than-air craft at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, and later was appointed head of the Structural and Mechanical Engineering Department there. During part of this period he held the appointment, by arrangement with the Air Ministry, of part-time lecturer on aircraft structures in the post-graduate Aeronautics Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London. He resigned this in 1941 owing to pressure of official duties at Farnborough.

Dr. Pugsley's researches have been mainly in the field of elasticity in aircraft structures, upon questions of interaction of aerodynamic loading with structural elasticities and inertias, and the development of airworthiness design regulations putting these into practice. He was awarded the D.Sc. by the Univer-

sity of London for this work. His activities at Farnborough included a notable expansion of the experimental work on structures, including investigation of structural accidents. He was awarded the O.B.E. early in the present year.

Society for Visiting Scientists

THE Society for Visiting Scientists was founded on the initiative of the British Council, and in consultation with the Royal Society, to provide a meeting place and information centre for men of science from overseas visiting Great Britain. The premises at 5 Old Burlington Street, W.1, consist of a lounge and meeting rooms, a bar, refectory, and some dormitory accommodation. These are at the disposal of members. The information centre is open to all visiting men of science, so anyone arriving in Britain can, if he wishes, proceed at once to the House and be given advice and details of how he can apply for membership. Under the present conditions it was decided to postpone the official opening for the time being; but the Society has been functioning unofficially for the last few months and has already been used by a number of British and foreign scientific workers, including members of the French Scientific Mission. It is hoped that an official opening will take place in the near future. In the meantime the Executive Committee has held an informal reception. On this occasion the president, Prof. F. G. Donnan, pointed out the importance of offering hospitality to young scientific workers, and deplored the lack of facilities for them in the past. He added, "I hope sincerely that this modest beginning will be but the nucleus of something much greater and more widely spread, something that in the happy days to come will contribute to the friendship, intercourse, and good fellowship of scientists throughout the world".

Rehabilitation of Liberated Countries

THE rapid advances of the Allies in both eastern and western Europe has brought into prominence the vitally important task of carrying relief to the suffering peoples and helping them to restart their agricultural and industrial activities. Several conferences have recently been held both in Great Britain and in North America dealing with the many important problems involved. The work falls into three stages. During the period of military operations it is in charge of the Civil Affairs Branch of the Army. Military necessities must obviously be of over-riding importance, and the closest liaison with the military authorities is essential. This organization will deal with the emergency period, but ceases to act when the military operations have ceased. At that stage a National Government will take charge, and it can look to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for advice and supplies for completing the relief measures and restarting the agricultural and industrial life of the country.

The work of U.N.R.R.A. falls into several sections: supplies of food, clothing, agricultural materials, machinery and spare parts for restarting damaged factories, especially those concerned with food; and with the returning of the scattered populations to their homes. Expert committees have collected data and worked out bases of allocations and priorities. The combined boards in Washington will furnish the most important supplies, and although reserves of food are not yet available owing to military demands