founder and director of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology.

Part of the story of the next twenty years Myers has himself told in his "Ten Years of Industrial Psychology"; but it is a small part even of the period covered. Only those who knew him very well indeed know what boundless energy, what ceaseless planning, what jealous regard went into the building and development of the Institute. It was an effort in the public service, actuated by very fine ideals and carried out with astonishing courage and great disregard for personal comfort. Some day, perhaps, its worth to the nation will be fully recognized. Certainly that day has not yet come.

Of Myers as a man and of his genuine scientific power it is not very easy to write. The most charming hospitality which he and his wife accorded his students in the early Cambridge days remains a cherished memory to all of us who knew it. He was not a very fluent speaker, and only those who were able to discuss quietly with him the problems, practical and theoretical, of his young science, knew how sure was his scientific grasp, how wide his knowledge, and how honest and unprejudiced his mind.

Many honours came to him, which he carried lightly. He was the first to be elected a fellow of the Royal Society for specifically psychological work. He was awarded a C.B.E., had honorary doctorates from the Universities of Manchester, Calcutta and Pennsylvania and held an honorary fellowship at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He was widely known and esteemed in other countries, was president of the International Congress of Psychology in 1922, and twice president of the Psychology Section of the British Association. He was largely responsible for the founding and fortunes of the British Psychological Society, and one of the early and most successful editors of its journal.

What Myers could have achieved if he could have schooled himself to a single-minded pursuit either of scientific investigation on one hand or to a complete immersion in practical affairs on the other, it is possible only to guess. He certainly had rare qualities, deliberate to be sure, of width and accuracy of knowledge, of devotion to exact method, and of imagination which could have led to very outstanding personal achievement in psychology, or anthropology, or medicine. He had also the grasp, the energy, the capacity to inspire personal loyalty and a good deal, at least, of the impartiality which go to make the absolutely first-rate organiser. He never quite squared these two interests. The second robbed him of the leisure for the first, and the first always left him a little dissatisfied with the second. In fact, I believe, having sized up the probable consequences, he chose to devote his working life to the service of man, and from the path along which this decision led him he did not swerve.

F. C. BARTLETT

NEWS and VIEWS

Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine: Dr. H. J. Muller

IN any treatise on modern genetics, H. J. Muller figures as the man who discovered the action of X-rays on chromosomes and genes. It is this association which at once comes to the mind of the biologist on learning of the award to him of the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for 1946. Yet this spectacular and in a way crowning achievement of his scientific career, when seen in the perspective of his whole work, is only one step along a road which was planned with brilliant foresight and imagination, and followed with critical and untiring accuracy. In 1927, when Muller at the Genetical Congress in Berlin first produced definite proof that X-rays cause mutations, similar attempts, although without clear success, had already been made by a number of workers, and actually in the following year Stadler and others announced positive results of independent X-ray experiments with plants. Thus it was not the bare discovery of the metagenic action of X-rays which revolutionized genetics, but the manner in which Muller's previous work had paved the way for the use of it, and the genius with which he exploited it. First, in co-operation with T. H. Morgan in Columbia, later in the University of Texas, he had with great ingenuity used the fruitfly *Drosophila* to develop strains and methods, such as the *ClB* strain and balanced lethals, which formed and still form the basis for accurate tests of mutability. These methods, which already had borne fruit in studies of spontaneous mutability and its dependence on temperature, carried out by Muller alone and in co-operation with Altenburg, could now be put into the service of the new powerful agency for producing mutations. With their aid, progress in the new field was amazingly rapid. During the twenty years since its beginning, radiation genetics has proved a means of approach to a great number of fundamental problems of genetics: types of mutation, chromosome mechanics, gene action, position effect, size of gene, nature of mutation, to name only a few of them; and a very large share of the subsequent work has been due to Muller himself, or has at least been inspired or guided by him.

Muller's outstanding share in mutation and radiation genetics is apt to make us overlook that he has left his impress on almost every branch of genetics. In his early days he took a prominent part in the development of the theory of crossing-over, and from the beginning, when he studied multiple and modifying factors, to his recent papers on "Reversibility in Evolution" and "The Role of Isolation and Temperature in Evolution" he has been a powerful advocate of the neo-Darwinian theory. Although his main work has been carried out with *Drosophila*, he has always been quick to realize possibilities inherent in other material. It is probably not widely known that it was Muller who in 1925 inaugurated the study of identical twins reared apart, which later on has been taken up so successfully by Newman and his school.

It may be asked wherein the benefit of his work to medicine is to be found. There appear to be two reasons for this. The first, more superficial one, is the help which radiation therapy has derived from a knowledge of the nuclear phenomena on which its results are based, and also of the dangers to the germ cells inherent in all work with high-energy radiation. The second points to the much larger benefits which medicine, especially preventive medicine, and eugenics

are likely to derive in the future from an application of genetical knowledge and theory to problems of human health ; in so far as modern genetics is inextricably bound up with the work of H. J. Muller, his will be a very large share in this hoped-for gain to human welfare and happiness.

University College of the West Indies

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has decided, after consideration of the report of the West Indies Committee of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies, to adopt the Committee's recommendation that a West Indian University College should be established in Jamaica. In the first instance the College will be given the status of a university college and will prepare its students for the degrees of the University of London. It is hoped that this formative period will not be prolonged beyond the minimum time necessary to establish the reputation of the College as a centre of teaching and research. He has further decided, in agreement with the University of London, which sent two delegations to the West Indies to investigate the problem on the spot, that the temporary medical school which the Committee recommended in anticipation of a permanent Medical Faculty of the College, should also be established in Jamaica as an integral part of the College. The further measures required to establish the College and temporary medical school are already under discussion between the Colonial Office and the academic bodies and Colonial Governments concerned.

Dr. T. W. J. Taylor, C.B.E.

THE appointment of Dr. T. W. J. Taylor as principal-designate of the new University College of the West Indies deprives Oxford of a versatile chemist and a man of an almost unique range of experience. Elected scholar of Brasenose College from the City of London School in 1913, his undergraduate career was interrupted by active service with the Essex Regiment (Gallipoli and France) during 1914–19. Returning to Oxford in the latter year, he got a 'first' in chemistry in June 1920 and was elected to a fellowship at Brasenose. For the ensuing twenty years he tutored the Brasenose chemists and served as a demonstrator in organic chemistry at the Dyson-Perrins Laboratory. Most of his published researches are concerned with stereochemistry, and his work on oximes is well known. With Dr. (now Prof.) Wilson Baker he undertook with notable success the task of revising Sidgwick's "Organic Chemistry of Nitrogen" : he also edited the second volume of the English revision of "Richter". He found time to visit the United States and Canada as Rhodes Travelling Fellow in 1931, and characteristically employed a sabbatical leave in 1938 as member of an expedition to the Galapagos Islands, where he studied the plant pigments of the endemic flora.

In January 1940, Dr. Taylor joined the Royal Engineers and served as technical officer on the General Staff at G.H.Q., Middle East, from July 1940 until October 1942. After a short period at G.H.Q., Home Forces, he was released from the Army to go to Washington in January 1943 as secretary (and later director) of the British Commonwealth Scientific Office, where he played a key part in the broadening of that organisation which led to its present title of "British Commonwealth Scientific Office". In March 1944, Dr. Taylor relinquished his Washington appointment to become scientific adviser to the Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia ; for this work, which terminated with his return to Oxford in October 1945, he was awarded the C.B.E. Dr. Taylor's wide chemical interests are associated with many outside the subject : to a well-informed enthusiasm for botany, ornithology and music may be added a passion for travel that has taken him to every continent but Australasia. His adventurous spirit and zest for many branches of knowledge augur well for the future of his important task in the Caribbean area.

Botany at Sydney : Prof. N. A. Burges

DR. N. A. BURGES, University demonstrator and fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of botany in the University of Sydney, in succession to Prof. Eric Ashby. Born in Australia, he graduated at Sydney in 1931, after which he began researches in mycology. In 1934 he went to Cambridge as a research student with an Australian scholarship and carried out investigations in plant pathology. He soon showed himself to be a man of exceptional ability. He took an active part in the life of Emmanuel College and was prominent in athletics. He graduated Ph.D. in 1937 and was awarded a senior 1851 Exhibition. In the following year he was elected a research fellow of his College. Early in the War he joined the R.A.F.V.R. and was attached to the signals branch of Bomber Command, retiring in 1945 with the rank of wing-commander. On returning to Cambridge he was made a University demonstrator, and in addition to continuing his researches, especially on soil fungi and mycorrhiza, greatly assisted in restoring the Botany School to its peace-time activities. Dr. Burges has wide botanical interests both in the field and in the laboratory, for which he will have ample scope at Sydney. He certainly will be an inspiration to his students. His Cambridge colleagues, though personally regretting his departure, are confident that he will maintain the prestige already associated with the Sydney Department of Botany. Both the University and his native country are to be congratulated on his return.

Botany at Hull : Prof. R. D'O. Good

MR. R. D'O. GOOD, head of the Department of Botany at University College, Hull, since 1928, has been appointed to the newly created chair of botany. After serving in the Army during the First World War, Dr. Good went to Downing College, Cambridge, and took botany in Part 2 of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1922. He was for a time an assistant in the Department of Botany at the British Museum, and while there he began the phytogeographical investigations for which he is widely known. Studies of the distribution of the Magnolieæ, the Stylidiaceæ, *Empetrum* and *Coriaria*, and a valuable summary of discontinuous generic distribution in the Angiosperms were followed by "A Theory of Plant Geography" (1931). This important analysis of the factors determining plant distribution continues after fifteen years to provide a basis for the discussion of phytogeographical principles. More recently Prof. Good has been making a detailed botanical survey of his native county, Dorset, and the publication of a small paper on the distribution of the primrose in Dorset gives cause to expect that the work, when completed, will set a new and far higher standard for county floras. All botanists will wish Prof. Good happiness and success in his new appointment.