much to the gradual change of leather production from a chancy industrial art to a sequence of processes scientifically controlled.

Miss Jordan Lloyd was perhaps unique among the scientific women of her time—a vigorous and vivacious leader of her mixed team both in triumph and tribulation (for her laboratories were twice wrecked in the 'blitz' on Bermondsey); a clear thinker and good speaker with a constructive mind; a manager with ability to delegate; a research worker herself who displayed an arresting interest in the investigations of many others; and with a demeanour and practical outlook in the tanneries which appealed to the employers and their technicians. She can have perhaps no more fitting epitaph—and one possibly no more welcome to her—than the impressive volumes now appearing which describe the results of twenty-five years of research for the British leather industry by the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association under her inspiring leadership.

ROBERT H. PICKARD

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. F. F. Blackman, F.R.S., formerly reader in botany in the University of Cambridge, on January 30, aged eighty.

Prof. James H. Leuba, emeritus professor of psychology at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, on December 8, aged seventy-eight.

Prof. L. W. Lyde, since 1928 emeritus professor of geography in the University of London, on January 24, aged eighty-three.

Dr. F. B. Mumford, emeritus dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, on November 12, aged seventy-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

Advisory Council on Scientific Policy: Sir Henry Tizard, K.C.B., F.R.S.

MR. ARTHUR GREENWOOD, Lord Privy Seal, has announced in a Parliamentary written reply that it has been decided, in addition to the establishment of the Defence Research Policy Committee, to set up on the civil side an Advisory Council on Scientific Policy to advise the Lord President of the Council in the exercise of his responsibility for the formulation and execution of Government scientific policy. The chairman will be Sir Henry Tizard, who is also chairman of the Defence Committee, and the staffs of the two bodies will work in close association. The Council will include the heads of the principal Government scientific organisations and a number of scientific workers from outside the Government service. The former Scientific Advisory Committee will now cease to exist. The latter, it will be recalled, was set up in October 1940, and consisted of the president and secretaries of the Royal Society, and the secretaries of the chief Government research departments, under the chairmanship of Lord Hankey. In the new Advisory Council the choice of membership has been somewhat extended, but presumably its functions will be roughly the same.

As chairman of the Defence Research Policy Committee and also of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy, Sir Henry Tizard will occupy a unique position in the scientific life of Great Britain. For this he is admirably fitted. Apart from a distinguished academic record which gave promise of exceptional ability, his work during and after the First World War in aeronautical research and his influence on British aircraft development made him well known in scientific and engineering circles. A short period (1927–29) as permanent secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research when that Department was becoming established gave him first-hand knowledge of State administrative machinery. From 1929 until 1942 he was rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and since 1942 he has been president of Magdalen College, Oxford. Thus he has unusual experience in scientific, engineering and administrative fields such as few can boast, which makes the choice of Sir Henry for the chairmanship of the new bodies for the organisation of defence and scientific research a particularly appropriate one.

Thomas Alva Edison (1847–1931)

THOMAS ALVA EDISON was born in the then village of Milan, Ohio, on February 11, 1847, and died at West Orange, New Jersey, on October 18, 1931, at the age of eighty-four. Many years before Edison's death, Sir Richard Gregory wrote in his "Discovery, or the Spirit and Service of Science", "Thomas A. Edison is the embodiment of the method of specialised research with a practical purpose. By quickness of perception, fertility of resource, and persistent trial of everything until the best means of achieving his end has been found, he has become the leading inventor in the world." It is not far short of seventy years since the journalists of America raised him to the status of a sort of national hero. His first triumph was achieved when as a boy of fifteen he set up, printed and published a newspaper on a running train. By twenty-one he had secured the first of his thousands of patents and resigned an appointment with a telegraph company in order to bring out his inventions. From that time, patent followed patent, and in 1876 he founded the famous laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey, where he employed both men of science and men of skill to carry out his ideas. In quick succession came a series of innovations in telegraphy and telephony, the phonograph, photography, and in all that appertained to the generation, distribution and utilization of electricity. All that he did has to be studied with a knowledge of what had been and was being done by others, for he always made the fullest use of contemporary discoveries.

It was largely through the exhibition of Edison's 'Jumbo' dynamos and the incandescent lamp, in the United States and at the Paris Exhibition, that his reputation became world-wide. From his work on these things sprang the plans for the Pearl Street Electric Power Station in New York and the similar station at Holborn Viaduct, London, both of which were put into operation in 1882 for lighting the neighbouring streets and business premises. Some four hundred lamps in the telegraph operating room in the General Post Office, Newgate Street, were supplied with current from Holborn Circus. Edison was only thirty-five at this time, but he was probably at the height of his powers. His work and list of patents taken out afterwards, however, is impressive. In fertility of ideas he was perhaps only rivalled by his countryman Hiram Maxim. In later life he was