

area the reports may be consulted in the libraries of the Royal Society; National Institute for Medical Research; British Drug Houses, Ltd.; Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd.; Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, Beckenham; May and Baker, Ltd., Dagenham; and in the provinces in the libraries of the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Glasgow, Manchester and Oxford. In the Nottingham area the reports may be consulted in the library of Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd. The information contained in these reports cannot be made the subject of any publication before the Penicillin Monograph appears later in the year.

Biochemistry at Guy's Hospital Medical School: Prof. R. H. S. Thompson

THE appointment of Dr. R. H. S. Thompson to the new University chair of chemical pathology at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, is no surprise to those acquainted with his work. During the course of a distinguished career, he has been concerned in some twenty-nine publications covering several aspects of biochemistry. As a Millard scholar of Trinity College, Oxford, he early showed promise and became senior demy of Magdalen College in 1933. At this time he worked with Prof. R. A. Peters upon the role of vitamin B₁₂ in the metabolism of pyruvic acid in brain; extending the work (with R. E. Johnson) to the important observation, now applied clinically, of increased pyruvic acid in blood in the terminal conditions of this deficiency. Following this, as a scholar at Guy's Hospital, he was awarded the Laidlaw Prize in 1937 and published research with Prof. G. Payling Wright on the chemistry of Gaucher's disease. As the Adrian Stokes travelling fellow, working with Dr. Dubos at the Rockefeller Institute in New York (1937-38), he published work upon the important enzyme ribonuclease, and upon the production of experimental osteomyelitis. Upon his return to Oxford in 1938, he became University demonstrator in biochemistry and fellow and tutor of University College. Since 1946, he has acted as dean of the Medical School. At the outbreak of the War he joined the team working upon antidotes to the war gases under the direction of Prof. Peters and took a prominent part with Dr. L. A. Stocken in the discovery and development of British anti-lewisite (2-3 dimercaptopenol). He has also been much concerned with the clinical developments of this substance and is now acting as secretary of the Medical Research Council Conference on *B.A.L.* During the War he also co-operated with Netley Hospital in the nutritional treatment of post-arsphenamine jaundice, and in 1944-46 was attached to the Australian Army as Major, R.A.M.C. He was awarded in 1943 the Radcliffe Prize for medical research, Oxford.

University College, Nottingham: School of Agriculture

THE Midland Agricultural College at Sutton Bonington has become the University College of Nottingham School of Agriculture. The Midland Agricultural College has had a long and distinguished association with agricultural and dairying education. The agricultural section started as the agricultural department of University College, Nottingham, in 1892. In 1895 the Midland Dairy Institute was established at Kingston-on-Soar, and in 1900 the agricultural department was moved out into the country to link up with the dairy side. The

subsequent development of the Midland Agricultural College was due very largely to the four local county councils of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lindsey and Nottinghamshire. In 1942 the governing body made recommendations to the associated county councils that the immediate needs of agricultural education could be served by the development of farm institutes in the counties and that the College should be reserved for higher agricultural education and research; in 1943 the University College of Nottingham instituted a Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture, and the principal of the Midland Agricultural College was appointed to the staff of the University College as the professor of agriculture. University College, Nottingham, has bought out the county council interests in the Midland College, and the money will be used by the councils in the development of county farm institutes.

The entire staff of the Midland Agricultural College is being transferred to the staff of the University College of Nottingham. Prof. H. G. Robinson, who has been at Sutton Bonington for twenty-two years and for the last twelve years as principal, becomes the first director of the new School of Agriculture. The present student population in the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture numbers 240. Developments envisaged at Sutton Bonington in the near future provide for a considerable extension of the facilities in the Horticultural Department. A scheme costing £15,000 has been approved in this connexion and is being assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture. As a result of this development, Nottingham will have a centre of higher agricultural education that will fit into the general scheme of agricultural education that is now being planned for the country as a whole. So far as horticulture is concerned, Nottingham will have to cater for the educational needs of the northern half of England.

Birds of Heligoland

MINOR discharges were used to arouse the sea-birds of Heligoland so as to avoid their destruction in the greater explosions which marked the destruction of the fortifications of the island. The island is to revert to its pre-war use as an ornithological centre for migration studies. The nesting birds of Heligoland are comparatively few: its importance in the North Sea off the Elbe estuary lies in the facilities it has offered for the study of bird migration during spring and autumn. The Heligoland design of bird recovery trap, originally adapted for bird-ringing pursuits off South Wales, is being utilized in the formation of a chain of independent bird-study stations around the British Isles at Fair Island, the Spurn, Lundy Island, Milford Haven and elsewhere. As many as 9,000 starlings were caught, marked and released on Heligoland during one pre-war migration in the studies organised by the German State Biological Bureau under the direction of Dr. Rudolf Drost and Dr. Shildmacher. In nine days on one occasion 1,130 birds were ringed: these included 271 blackbirds, 220 song thrushes, 105 redbreasts and 144 skylarks. The German Ministry of Agriculture helped to finance these studies.

German Scientific and other Periodicals

THE Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux has prepared a classified list of German periodicals, excluding newspapers, official gazettes, local organs of political parties, trade unions and churches, devotional literature and popular periodicals