

a relative humidity of 60 per cent. The air-conditioning plant is housed in a penthouse on the roof of the one-storied laboratory building.

Since some of the investigations which the new centre is expected to undertake may eventually be adopted by industry, it was felt to be important to incorporate a pilot plant in the design of the institute. The pilot plant, when completed, will house, in addition to a complete fermentation plant of 400 gallons capacity with a separate distillation unit, a boiler house, a gas plant, an air compressor unit and a machine shop. From the pilot plant, gas, steam and compressed air will be supplied to the various laboratories, through underground pipe systems. All equipment for the pilot and air-conditioning plants are of British design and manufacture.

In view of the acute housing shortage throughout the West Indies and in Port of Spain in particular, it was agreed that housing facilities should be provided for the scientific staff within the grounds of the Institute. To this end a block of four flats has been erected within the six acres of grounds belonging to the Institute. A bungalow for the engineer has also been erected there.

The construction of the various buildings was commenced early in 1947 and has by now progressed so far that the Institute is to be opened officially on July 5, when Lord Hankey, chairman of the Colonial Products Research Council, has consented to perform the ceremony in person.

Invitations to attend the ceremony have been sent to Governments of the various Colonies, to Governments with Colonial possessions in the tropics and to the Governments of the neighbouring Central and South American States.

It is hoped to make the opening an occasion for informal discussions, among the delegates, of microbiological problems, particularly such problems as are met with under tropical conditions.

OBITUARIES

Prof. W. T. David

THE sudden death on May 22 of Prof. W. T. David has removed from the University of Leeds a man of real distinction with a vivid personality. For twenty-six years he was professor of engineering and administrative head of the Engineering Departments.

David was born in Laugharne in 1886 and was educated at St. David's County School. After a brilliant career at University College, Cardiff, he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he specialized in a study of infra-red radiation from flame gases and related combustion phenomena under the inspiration of the late Prof. B. Hopkinson. This field of research ultimately became his abiding interest. In 1912 he was appointed H.M. Inspector of Schools on the technological side; during the First World War he became inspector of gun ammunition with headquarters at Woolwich Arsenal and later director of dilution of labour at the Ministry of Munitions. In 1920 he was appointed to the chair of engineering at University College, Cardiff, and in 1922 he succeeded the late Prof. John Goodman in the chair of engineering at Leeds.

David was no narrow scholar, and was a strong advocate of education in the true university sense. He was a man of high integrity and sound judgment, and his brilliance, kindness and wisdom endeared him both to colleagues and students. He freely gave to all

students and encouraged them to high endeavour by his inspiring teaching and the impact of his personality. In his lectures he would stress the importance of grasping the fundamental principles of engineering science, revealing the basic concepts in brilliant flashes, and would carefully lead the student in some branch of the subject on to the very frontiers of knowledge. David frequently likened this method of lecturing to students to taking them to the top of Mount Pisgah to view 'the promised land', so that with few words he would excite and fire the imagination of the students and make a lasting impression upon their minds.

In the field of research David directed his efforts mainly towards the problems of combustion phenomena and the related problems of internal combustion engines. At Cambridge he took special interest in heat loss from gaseous explosions, and he became intrigued with the problem of 'missing-pressure' in internal-combustion engines. This resulted in a comprehensive study of explosions of inflammable gaseous mixtures at a time when the lack of reliable thermal data handicapped his investigations. His intuition, however, led him to believe that flame gases were not really normal hot gases but possessed energy in excess of that of normal gases. The development of quantum mechanics and afterwards the provision of thermal data have made it possible to confirm his early ideas concerning flame gases. No one was more devoted to his subject or to his students.

Outside the University of Leeds, David was known in engineering circles in Yorkshire and elsewhere; was a member of the Institutions of Civil and of Mechanical Engineers, and was chairman of the Yorkshire Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the session 1928-29.

David was a man whose views were highly valued in any assembly and his contributions to discussion, often brief and pungent, were commonly wise. He possessed an independent mind and a forceful character, "it's dogged that does it" being his motto. He will be sorely missed for his clear judgment, store of good humour and warm sympathy, especially at a time like the present, when the transition to peace and the expansion of the University of Leeds are raising so many problems.

R. H. EVANS

Dr. A. E. Jones

DR. ARTHUR EMRYS JONES, lecturer in mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, was killed in a lift accident on May 7 at the age of twenty-seven. A scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, he secured a first class in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos in 1939, and honours in Part III in the following year. During the War he worked in the Ballistics Section of the Armaments Research Department, and was associated with J. R. Womersley in his pioneer work on the application of statistical methods to the control of variability in gun-cordite. In 1945-46 he worked at Rothamsted Experimental Station on the design of grazing experiments, and thereafter entered the Statistics Section of the Mathematical Department at Imperial College.

A thesis on continuous stochastic processes and autocorrelation theory brought him his doctorate in 1946. He had also published, in *Biometrika*, vol. 33, Part IV, a paper on the routine estimation of dispersion from large samples. At the time of his death