

Before the Second World War, when the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was undergoing extension, Farkas, at the request of Dr. Ch. Weizmann, joined the staff there and was appointed professor of physical chemistry in 1936, a post which he held at his death. During the last ten years he was particularly active in training young chemists in Israel. Early in 1942, the Palestine War Supply Board set up a scientific advisory committee to co-operate with the Middle East Supply Centre in Cairo, and Farkas became its scientific secretary. He developed methods for the local production of many important chemicals such as ethyl chloride, ethylene bromide and vitamin D.

He took an active part in the exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals, particularly the recovery and utilization of bromine.

At the end of December Farkas left Jerusalem for the United States to purchase scientific equipment, and on this journey he was the victim of an aeroplane crash in the vicinity of Rome. ERIC K. RIDEAL

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Tenney L. Davis, emeritus professor of organic chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and editor-in-chief of *Chymia*, an annual publication devoted to historical chemistry, on January 25, aged fifty-nine.

Prof. T. S. Patterson, Gardiner professor of organic chemistry in the University of Glasgow, on February 14, aged seventy-six.

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NEWS and VIEWS

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research :
Sir Edward Appleton, B.E., K.C.B., F.R.S.

THE appointment of Sir Edward Appleton to be principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Edinburgh was announced in November last, and he will be taking up his new duties there in May. Sir Edward became secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in February 1939, after a brilliant university career, during which he conducted his classical researches on the transmission of radio waves which led to the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1947 (see *Nature*, November 22, 1947, p. 703). During the ten years he has been with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Sir Edward has devoted all his energy to its interests and purposes. These are broadly: first, to seek scientific truth by carrying out research in the Department's establishments and by encouraging programmes of research in other appropriate places; and secondly, to foster the application of scientific knowledge for the benefit of the community. This period of service has included the arduous war years during which the duties and responsibilities of the head of the Department were particularly onerous and of vital importance to the nation. As an administrator, Sir Edward has come to be respected by all the staff who worked under him; as the Civil servant who represented the Government in all branches of science, except medicine, agriculture and fisheries, he has commanded the attention and appreciation of the whole of Britain. His wisdom, shrewdness and gentle, but persuasive, drive have made him much sought after as chairman of national committees of all types, whether these were concerned with scientific or technical matters or with the practical details of staffs and their organisation. Throughout his decade of Government service, Sir Edward has succeeded in maintaining a close and active interest in the field of radio science which he has made his own and for which he has an international reputation. There is little doubt that, while in his new position he will naturally be mainly concerned with university administration, he will find opportunities to continue his favourite line of research work.

Sir Ben Lockspeiser

SIR BEN LOCKSPEISER who succeeds Sir Edward Appleton as secretary of the Department of Scientific

and Industrial Research, was born in 1891. He was educated at the Grocers' School, London, and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He served in the First World War, taking part in the Gallipoli Campaign. Invalided home, he worked under Prof. A. V. Hill on problems relating to fuses. His association with aeronautics started in 1920, when he went to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He was at first engaged in research on crystal structures with Dr. A. A. Griffith; later he worked on aerodynamics and instrument design. He made valuable contributions to the theory of aircraft flutter and to the development of a chemical method of de-icing. He was placed in charge of the Air Defence Section at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1937, and it was perhaps in this that his best work, most of it secret, was done. He was transferred to the Ministry of Aircraft Production to take charge of armament research, being made assistant director in 1939 and deputy director in 1941; he became director of scientific research in succession to Dr. D. R. Pye in 1943, and director general in 1945. When the Ministry of Supply took over the responsibilities of the Ministry of Aircraft Production for aircraft, the need for a man of science to co-ordinate the scientific investigations of the whole Ministry was apparent, and Sir Ben was appointed as chief scientist to take over this work. Throughout his career Sir Ben has taken a strong interest in the status of scientific workers in the Civil Service; much of the improvement in conditions of service that has been achieved is due to his untiring efforts.

Physiology at University College, London : 9/2
Prof. C. Lovatt Evans, F.R.S.

PROF. CHARLES LOVATT EVANS is retiring at the end of the present session from the Jodrell chair of physiology at University College, London, which he has occupied since 1926. He was originally a student and is now an honorary LL.D. of the University of Birmingham. He then went to University College as Sharpey Scholar in Starling's laboratory and qualified in medicine at University College Hospital. As a fellow of the College, as professor and as dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, he has spent a large part of his active life in the place. As a member of the Medical Research Council, of the council of the Royal Society (vice-president), of the council of the Royal Veterinary College and of many other bodies,