

as an experienced examiner at home and overseas, he has made many important contributions not only to original knowledge but also to the structure and organisation of medical, dental and veterinary science and education. During both World Wars his skill in physiological experiment found valuable full-time application to chemical warfare and personnel research. But Starling's laboratory and Starling's inspiration, as he would proudly acknowledge, have made University College his real home. He and Mrs. Lovatt Evans will be sorely missed.

Lovatt Evans is a physiologist of the kind, now becoming rare, with a wide and critical knowledge of the whole field of human physiology. An excellent chairman and lecturer, a wise and understanding colleague with familiar contacts with physiologists the world over, his help and advice have been sought, and will continue to be sought, by those who have problems to solve, gaps of knowledge to make good or posts to fill. One of his most important services to physiology has been in keeping alive and up to date Starling's "Principles of Human Physiology", an immense and continuing labour to which he has added the authorship or editorship of other books and monographs. The admirable performance of this task depended on, and perhaps added to, the breadth of his knowledge. Lovatt Evans, although retiring this year, is young in mind and activity, and physiologists will expect him to continue as busy as ever in the service of physiology.

Lovatt Evans's own original work has been largely concerned with the circulatory system: heart, lungs, blood, oxidation, frequently with a bias towards the metabolic and chemical side (his early love was chemistry). But among a wide range of interests are also numbered liver function, sugar metabolism, blood pH, lactic acid, adrenalin, etc. A suggestion he once made, probably forgotten by him, based on his knowledge of plain muscle, fired off an important train of research on the function of potassium in striated muscle and thence in non-medullated nerve. Some of the best things start, apparently casually, by suggestions of that kind, and Lovatt Evans's wide knowledge must have been responsible for many; his pupils and his friends owe much to him and them.

Dr. G. L. Brown, C.B.E., F.R.S.

DR. G. L. BROWN, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Lovatt Evans, has been a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council for the last fourteen years. Dr. Brown was a student at the University of Manchester, where he graduated in medicine in 1927, having taken a higher degree in physiology during his course of study. He left Manchester to become demonstrator and later lecturer in physiology under the late Prof. McSwiney at Leeds, where his researches were concerned with the motor innervation of the stomach. When Dr. Brown went to the National Institute for Medical Research in 1934, he joined in the programme of work in Sir Henry Dale's laboratory on the chemical transmission of nerve impulses; to this work he made major contributions, especially in connexion with the role of acetylcholine in the conduction of impulses through sympathetic ganglia and from motor nerves to skeletal muscle. Since then he has much extended his researches in neurophysiology with full application and development of modern electrical methods; the results of his work are important not only for their scientific interest but also for their clinical

applications. During the Second World War, Dr. Brown gave distinguished service, as secretary of the Royal Naval Personnel Research Committee, both by organising and directly stimulating researches on conditions affecting the efficiency of naval personnel. The chair at University College will thus be occupied by a man who has established himself as a leader in physiology, and who will undoubtedly uphold the great traditions of the Laboratory of which he will have charge.

Prof. Solly Zuckerman, C.B., F.R.S.

THE Lord President of the Council has announced that Prof. Solly Zuckerman, a member of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy and of the Committee on Industrial Productivity, has been appointed deputy chairman of both bodies. The appointment, it is stated, will help to relieve the burden on the chairman, Sir Henry Tizard, who is also chairman of the Defence Research Policy Committee. Prof. Zuckerman will continue as chairman of the panel on imports and as professor of anatomy in the University of Birmingham.

Operational Research in Industry

IN reply to a question asked in the House of Commons on January 19 on operational research in industry, the Lord President of the Council, Mr. Herbert Morrison, stated that it is the policy of the Government "to encourage all scientific activities which contribute to increasing the productivity and efficiency of industry. Operational research . . . is a term given in the recent war to the use of the scientific method for obtaining data on which executive decisions can be based. It has been employed by progressive firms in many industries for a number of years; . . . there is certainly room for more of it. I have had a full report on its possibilities from a Panel of the Committee on Industrial Productivity. Several of the co-operative research associations, in particular the Cotton Research Association, the Iron and Steel Research Association and the Boot, Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association are doing well with it; and with the general expansion of facilities since the War, other research associations are already carrying out, or are planning, similar work." Mr. Morrison added that the Departments concerned will extend every encouragement to firms anxious to develop operational research within their respective organisations.

Submarine Geology: New French Annual

OCEANOGRAPHERS, who have long had good cause to be grateful to two well-known American institutions for their volume of "Collected Reprints" distributed each year, will welcome the recent institution of a comparable practice in France. It is manifestly impossible for individuals, and practicable only for a few major libraries, to maintain subscriptions and exchanges adequate to ensure the receipt of anything like all the important oceanographical papers which appear in the course of a year; a serious difficulty resides, of course, in the fact that so many organs of publication are concerned. This latter point is evident on scanning a new volume just received, *Travaux du Laboratoire de Géologie Sous-Marine*, vol. 1 (1947). This is produced by the École Pratique des Hautes Études, 1 Rue Victor-Cousin, Paris 5<sup>e</sup>, under the superintendence of the director, Jacques Bourcart. It contains fifteen papers; five are by Dr. Bourcart himself, of which