

an educational proposition is presented, not so much novel as coercive. Its essential character is preparation for a new type of spade-work. That will take time. Luckily, there are already signs that the cracks in the superstructure have been noticed. Two examples, both recent, will illustrate. First, discussions on the possible reform, in certain major respects, of the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge have led to proposals for the inclusion of historical and philosophical studies in the curriculum and examinations<sup>2</sup>. It is too early as yet to anticipate what the result will be; the important point is that such views should have been expressed, and that with no lack of vigour and seriousness.

The second portent is the formation of a Group, affiliated to the British Society for the History of Science, to study the philosophy of the sciences in the widest possible sense, including symbolic logic and aesthetics. (The relevance of all this to Whitehead's expression of faith already mentioned will not be overlooked.) So far, the new venture promises well.

Next, in what way or ways can people, by either of these movements, be influenced to behave axio-

logically, that is, perform valuable service? The answer is contained implicitly in the Cambridge report. There is a need, it suggests, for a new type of administrator, with a scientific background and habit of mind. What better than that he or she should be fashioned on these generous lines? To achieve distinction at the highest level in this new field must not be easy. If arrangements are adequate, it will certainly be no 'soft option'. Probably it assumes a degree of maturity more complete than is always the case, though that is in itself no reason why as much as possible should not be done at a less specialized stage. It should, moreover, be capable of interesting students in the faculty of fine arts, and thus to sow the seed in potentially fertile soil. Aesthetics has need of a magnanimous and strong methodology to support it. No longer should be heard within it such words as "Those [are the wounds] with which I was wounded in the house of my friends"<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ruskin, "Modern Painters", 5, Part 9.

<sup>2</sup> Milne, The Scott Lecture, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, 62, 10 (1943).

<sup>3</sup> *Cambridge University Reporter*, November 9, 1948.

<sup>4</sup> Zechariah, xiii, v. 6.

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## NEWS and VIEWS

### Zoological Society of London :

Mr. H. G. Maurice, C.B.

MR. HENRY GASCOYEN MAURICE has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Zoological Society of London, in recognition of his great services to the Society. This Medal has been awarded only three times previously since its foundation in 1877. Mr. Maurice has been a member of the Council of the Zoological Society almost continuously since 1926, and was president during 1942-48; since retiring from the office of president he has continued to serve as a vice-president. He took office in the middle of the War at a very critical time in the history of the Society, and it was largely the result of his wise conduct of its meetings that the various difficulties of those years were overcome. Mr. Maurice's long interest in natural history and Nature protection covers a wide range. He was fisheries secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries during 1912-38. His wide knowledge of problems connected with the fishing industry made him an ideal president of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, a position he occupied for eighteen years. On his retirement he was appointed 'president d'honneur', and in 1937 awarded the Gold Medal of the Johannes Schmidt Foundation for Oceanographical Research. Since October 1936, he has been secretary of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, and editor of its journal; and, in addition, he has taken a very active part in all problems connected with Nature protection. He was in charge of the British delegation to the meeting at Fontainebleau in October last year, which resulted in the foundation of the International Union for the Protection of Nature; and he was elected a vice-president and member of the executive council of this Union. Some of Mr. Maurice's fascinating essays on natural history have recently been issued in book form, "Sometimes an Angler" and "The Wisdom of the Ass"

### British Agricultural Advisers in North America : Dr. W. F. Darke

THE Agricultural Departments and the Commonwealth Relations Office announce that Mr. J. A. Young, assistant agricultural adviser to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ottawa, is returning to Northern Ireland in April at the end of his period of duty in Canada. His place will be taken by Dr. W. F. Darke, who will have the rank of secretary (agriculture) in the High Commissioner's office. Dr. Darke entered the University of London in 1930, taking his B.Sc.(Econ.) degree in 1933. He was awarded a research scholarship by the Agricultural Research Council and worked at Oxford and at the University of California. In 1936 he was awarded the degree of Ph.D.(Econ.) (London) and a year later that of B.Litt. by the University of Oxford for part of his work on the history of the small-holdings movement. Dr. Darke was appointed to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in May 1938 as a junior economist. He was seconded to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in August 1944, and in 1947 took up duty with the Food and Agriculture Organisation; he returned to the Ministry of Agriculture in January last year.

Mr. M. W. Taylor

THE Agricultural Departments and the Foreign Office announce that Mr. P. J. Macfarlan, assistant agricultural attaché in the British Embassy at Washington, is returning to the United Kingdom in May on the completion of his two-years appointment, and will be replaced by Mr. M. W. Taylor. Mr. Taylor went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and studied agriculture. During 1933-41 he was engaged in poultry farming on his own account, after which he was appointed senior biology master at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. Later he became technical adviser and superintendent of the experimental farm for the

Poultry Association of Great Britain. Mr. Taylor was appointed to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in December 1946 as a poultry advisory officer in the National Agricultural Advisory Service.

#### Mr. C. S. Windebank

MR. C. S. WINDEBANK has been appointed managing director of the Esso Development Company. This Company conducts and co-ordinates research, contract and patent work for the benefit of the Esso group of petroleum companies in Europe. Mr. Windebank took first-class honours in chemical engineering at the University of London, and in 1936-37 was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was awarded the degree of M.Sc. In 1937 he joined the technical staff of International Association (Petroleum Industry), Ltd., in London, and later, in 1940, he was released from the Army in order to undertake technical work with Esso European Laboratories on aviation fuels. On the formation of the Esso Development Company in 1947 Mr. Windebank was made manager of the Research Department.

#### Royal Society of Edinburgh: New Fellows

THE following were elected fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh at the ordinary meeting held on March 7. Dr. Charlotte Auerbach, 9 Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh 9; Dr. R. S. Barclay, statistician to the West Highland Survey; Dr. W. Black, principal scientific officer to the Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding; John Cameron, Sheriff of Inverness, Moray, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty; Prof. W. H. J. Childs, Physics Department, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; Dr. Ethel D. Currie, University of Glasgow; Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson, director of the Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen; Dr. A. M. Gillespie, 135 Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh 10; Mr. D. Grant, 19 Falcon Road West, Edinburgh 10; Dr. F. Gross, Zoology Department, University of Edinburgh; Mr. J. Jack, Mayfield, Monktonhall, Musselburgh, Midlothian; Prof. R. V. Jones, Natural Philosophy Department, University of Aberdeen; Dr. Sheina M. Marshall, principal scientific officer, Scottish Marine Biological Association Laboratory, Millport; Mr. N. G. Matthew, 126 West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh 9; Dr. Christina C. Miller, Chemistry Department, University of Edinburgh; Mr. H. C. Pawson, assistant director and senior tutor in agriculture, King's College (University of Durham), Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. I. A. Preece, 7 Blinkbonny Road, Edinburgh 4; Dr. Doris L. Reynolds, 7 West Mains Road, Edinburgh 9; Dr. H. O. W. Richardson, Natural Philosophy Department, University of Edinburgh; Dr. H. Sington, London; Dr. J. Smart, Zoology Department, University of Cambridge; Dr. R. H. A. Swain, Bacteriological Department, University of Edinburgh; Mr. G. Waterston Harestanes, Longniddry, East Lothian; Mr. R. G. White, director of the Animal Breeding and Research Organisation, Agricultural Research Council; Dr. F. N. Woodward, director of the Scottish Seaweed Research Association.

#### Use of the Term 'Coliform'

THE term 'coliform' has for some time had an obscure meaning, and it has become increasingly clear that a definition is desirable. Those interested in medical and veterinary bacteriology have used it to embrace only the morphological characters of many

species, not of *Bacterium coli* alone, but also of the dysentery bacteria, the salmonella and other Gram-negative rods similar to *Bacterium coli*. On the other hand, the term 'coliform' is restricted by many water and dairy bacteriologists to those organisms which are not only morphologically similar to *Bacterium coli* but which also resemble it in its cultural and biochemical characteristics; some have even regarded it as being synonymous with *Bacterium coli* of faecal origin. Because of this confusion and also because there is now a closer liaison between all those who study bacteria from whatever aspect, a committee of nine representing this variety of interests was appointed by the Society for General Microbiology and by the Society for Applied Bacteriology. This committee met on several occasions to discuss various aspects of the matter, and it is hoped that bacteriologists in general will be able to agree upon the meaning of the term 'coliform' which has been put forward.

Dr. Reginald Lovell (for the Society for General Microbiology), Royal Veterinary College, London, N.W.1, and Dr. C. B. Taylor (for the Society for Applied Bacteriology), c/o Messrs. Lever Brothers and Unilever, Ltd., Port Sunlight, Cheshire, have forwarded the following relevant portions of the committee's report: "(1) The term 'coliform' means 'like *Bacterium coli*', or 'coli-like'. (2) 'Coliform' is an adjective, and as such has no generic or ecological significance. (3) It is proposed that the term 'coliform' should refer to Gram-negative rods resembling *Bacterium coli* in morphology and staining reactions, but not necessarily in cultural and biochemical characteristics. (4) That the widest publicity should be given to this definition to prevent the term being employed to define different specific types by different workers, or to restrict the term to particular branches of bacteriology. The committee is convinced that the proposed definition is the only one satisfactory to all interests in bacteriology and is opposed to any definition based on ecology or biochemical reactions. Existing systems allow for classification of organisms grouped under the wide term now proposed."

#### University of Birmingham

At the annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the University of Birmingham, the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Sydney Vernon, announced that the progress of building at the University would be accelerated in the present year by an increase in the available supplies of material and labour. Among the first requirements to be met is the extension of the students' union. At present a part of the new engineering building is well advanced, and it is hoped that a further portion will be undertaken very shortly. The estimated cost of the much-needed halls of residence is such as to postpone indefinitely their realization. Present needs have been met to some extent by the erection of a number of prefabricated huts which are regarded as temporary, though they appear to be more durable than the old wooden Army huts erected in 1919, some of which are still in use. The doubling of the University population during the ten years following the War was regarded as being in the national interest; but Birmingham has already more than achieved this aim, the present number of students being between 3,250 and 3,500, a figure at which the Vice-Chancellor considers it might well be stabilized.

Among experiments aimed at broadening the education of the undergraduate, mention was made of