

NEWS and VIEWS

Maritime Regional Laboratory, Halifax, Nova Scotia : Prof. E. G. Young

PROF. E. GORDON YOUNG, since 1924 professor of biochemistry in Dalhousie University, has been appointed director of the National Research Council's Maritime Regional Laboratory at Halifax, Nova Scotia. This new Laboratory, now under construction on the campus of Dalhousie University, will be a centre for research on scientific and industrial problems of direct interest to the Maritime Provinces and will co-operate with the scientific departments of the universities in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. Born in the city of Quebec, where he received his early schooling, Prof. Young went to McGill University, graduated with honours in chemistry in 1916 and took his M.Sc. in 1919. From McGill he went to the University of Cambridge as a Ramsay Memorial Fellow to study biochemistry under the late Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, and in 1921 he received his Ph.D. Returning to Canada, he was appointed professor of biochemistry at the University of Western Ontario, where he remained until 1924 when he took up his present post at Dalhousie University. During 1942-46 Prof. Young was attached to the Department of National Defense in the chemical warfare service. He has published a number of papers on purine metabolism, chemistry of proteins, metabolism of bacteria and general nutrition subjects.

Scottish Marine Biological Association

ON April 1, 1950, important alterations were made in the organisation of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, and new responsibilities were assumed. The registered offices of the Association were transferred from 185 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, to the Marine Station, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae. The long and valued service given by Mr. A. Lawrie Brown as secretary and treasurer ended when the former office was assumed by the director, Mr. E. Ford, while Dr. J. H. Paul, of Millport, became honorary treasurer. At the same time the Association extended its activities to the east of Scotland by taking over, from University College, Hull, control of the Oceanographical Laboratory at Leith, Edinburgh. This Laboratory represents the final outcome of the plankton recorder work established at Hull by Prof. A. C. Hardy, and afterwards under the charge of Dr. C. E. Lucas, now director of fishery research, Scottish Home Department. For some years past the work has been increasingly concentrated at Leith, and it has now been entirely transferred there. The council of the Association will be advised on all matters concerning the scientific policy of the Leith Laboratory by a committee which will include Prof. A. C. Hardy and also representatives from the Scottish and English fishery services and from the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. Mr. K. M. Rae continues in charge of the Laboratory.

The facilities of the laboratory at Millport are being improved by the erection of a large concrete tank, designed initially for experiments on oyster breeding. Danger of collapse of a portion of the laboratory buildings has necessitated some rebuilding which will at the same time make good loss of research space due to the need for housing an increased administrative staff. At the last annual general meeting of the Association the resignation

from the office of president of Sir John Graham Kerr was received with very great regret. He has been succeeded by Prof. C. M. Yonge (also chairman of council), while Prof. J. Ritchie becomes vice-president.

William Henry Welch (1850-1934)

BORN a century ago, on April 8, 1850, William Henry Welch was one of the most versatile men of his age. After taking his arts degree at Yale University and his medical degree at Columbia University, he studied in Germany under Waldeyer, Ludwig, Cohnheim and Koch. In 1878 he established at Bellevue Hospital, New York, the first pathological laboratory in America, and six years later was appointed professor of pathology at Johns Hopkins University. Known as the 'Dean of American Pathology', he did pioneer work on acute oedema of the lungs, on venous thrombosis in heart disease and on diphtheria antitoxin, separated the white skin staphylococcus, and discovered the *Bacillus aerogenes capsulatus*, which bears his name. In 1900 he transferred his energies and enthusiasms to medical education and to public health. He helped to organise the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, serving as chairman of its board of scientific directors until his death, and for many years he was dean of the Johns Hopkins Medical School. In 1918 he became director of the newly founded School of Hygiene and Public Health at Baltimore, exchanging this post in 1926 for the chair of history of medicine. Three years later he created an Institute of the History of Medicine and became its first director. He died on April 30, 1934. A small, rotund, bald-headed man with a vandyke beard and a mischievous twinkle, Welch—affectionately known as 'Popsy'—was a confirmed bachelor who lived in two rooms crowded with books. He possessed an uncanny memory, and appeared to know the answer to everything without ever seeming to work.

Thirty Years of Rubber Research

IN commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation, the Research Association of British Rubber Manufacturers has issued a booklet entitled "Thirty Years of Rubber Research, 1919-1949" (pp. 28; from 105 Lansdowne Road, Croydon, Surrey), in which the growth and development of the Association are described, and its past and present activities reviewed. The functions of the Association cover original scientific investigations, intelligence and information services, and technical advice to the industry. Its scientific work has included diverse studies of the physical and chemical properties of rubber. While the emphasis in these has been mainly on standardization and systematization, a number of problems of wide scientific interest have been attacked, such as, for example, plastic flow in raw rubber, crack formation in the ageing of vulcanized rubber, and the mechanism of carbon-black reinforcement. The technical laboratory service, operated by a special staff, is designed to meet the needs of the manufacturer for assistance and advice, and, if necessary, for further research, in connexion with his own special problems. The library and information services include the comprehensive collection and dissemination of technical articles and abstracts relating to rubber, both by way of special publications and in response to individual requests. Judging by the figures quoted, this service is fully utilized and much appreciated, not only by regular subscribers but also by all those who may be in any way concerned with rubber.