

research interests lay mainly in the comparative pathology of tumours (on which he published in *Zoologica* and elsewhere), and in historical medicine.

However, Smith's greatest achievement undoubtedly rests in the advancement of medical research, not only in the United States but also elsewhere, which he was able to effect through the medium of the Anna Fuller Fund and as adviser to the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research, with the directors of which (Stanhope Bayne-Jones and M. C. Winternitz) he worked to the end in close harmony and friendship. Much of this contribution lay in the field of cancer research, and he also acted as a member of the U.S. National Advisory Cancer Council during 1939-42. He was a devoted supporter of the Allied cause in the Second World War, and served as chairman of the National Research Council committee on armoured vehicles.

In George Smith we admired his intense loyalty to his country and to Yale (which conferred upon

him the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1947), his complete unselfishness, and his lasting belief in international co-operation in science and medicine. He was also able (and wont) to accompany his practical benefactions with the warmth of encouragement to a rare degree. His loss will be mourned, and his memory honoured, by a host of colleagues and friends the world over.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. G. Denigès, *correspondant* of the Chemistry Section of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and honorary professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the University of Bordeaux, on February 20, aged ninety-two.

Prof. G. A. R. Kon, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in the Chester Beatty Research Institute, London, on March 15, aged fifty-nine.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Leather Industries at Leeds : Dr. D. Burton, M.B.E.

DR. DONALD BURTON, who has recently been appointed to the chair of leather industries in the University of Leeds in succession to the late Prof. W. R. Atkin, graduated at Leeds in 1914 with first-class honours in chemistry and gained his D.Sc. there in 1925. During the First World War he was assistant to the late Prof. J. W. Cobb, deputy inspector of high explosives (Leeds), and for his services, in the course of which he was seriously injured in an explosion, he was awarded the M.B.E. During 1920-25, Dr. Burton was head of the Leather Section of the C.W.S. Research Department at Manchester, and then was appointed head of the research and control laboratories of Messrs. Wm. Walker and Sons, of Bolton, where he has remained until now. Dr. Burton has had many years of lecturing experience at Bolton and at the College of Technology, Manchester, where he was responsible for initiating courses in leather chemistry. He is a member of many societies and other organizations relating to the leather industry, and, in recognition of his researches, the Society of Leather Chemists founded the Donald Burton Prize for original research; he is also the joint author of a book on "Sulphated Oils and Allied Products". During the Second World War, Dr. Burton was engaged in the production of leather for the Services, and in researches into the development of oil seals.

### Applied Mechanics at Sheffield : Dr. W. A. Tuplin

FURTHER progress in the development of the newly established Postgraduate School of Applied Mechanics in the University of Sheffield is indicated by the recent appointment of Dr. W. A. Tuplin to the chair of applied mechanics. Dr. Tuplin was educated in the University of Manchester, where he was a Webb Scholar, and graduated in mechanical engineering. He is at present head of the Engineering Research and Development Department of the David Brown

Group of companies, with which he has long been associated. Dr. Tuplin is a specialist in problems of vibration and the design, manufacture and performance of power transmission appliances, and has published a large number of papers on these subjects. He is also the author of a book on "Torsional Vibration".

### Atomic Energy in the Argentine

ON March 25, General Perón announced at a press conference that Dr. R. Richter, director of the Argentine atomic energy plant, had given a successful demonstration on February 16 of the controlled release of atomic energy by a thermonuclear process. He emphasized that the Argentine is interested only in the industrial exploitation of atomic energy. According to the statements which have appeared, an atomic energy plant has been erected on Huemul Island, which is in a lake near northern Patagonia, and attention has been concentrated on thermonuclear reactions as a source of atomic energy. These reactions,

Messrs. Macmillan regret to announce that, as from the issue dated July 7, the price of *Nature* will be 2s.

in contrast to nuclear fission—in which a heavy nucleus is broken up, with the release of energy, into two parts of the same order of mass—are a building-up process, in which, for example, hydrogen nuclei can be made to combine to form helium and perhaps larger nuclei, again with the release of enormous quantities of energy. Such processes are thought to provide some at least of the energy available in the sun, and hitherto it has been believed that extremely high temperatures are necessary to initiate them. No details are available about the work in the Argentine, apart from the somewhat negative information that the starting materials are easily obtained and less costly than hydrogen of mass 3. It is thus impossible, at the time of writing, to assess the importance of General Perón's announcement; Prof. M. L. E. Oliphant, the distinguished nuclear physicist and director of the School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University,