

MESSAGE FROM THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO NATURE

WE are sometimes told that ordinary men and women have not as good an appreciation as they should have of the advantages of science and of the fuller use that might be made of them by the community. There may perhaps be some justice in this suggestion; but I think it is fair to say that people in general are anxious to know, but often find it difficult to understand, the technical terms generally used in these matters.

To whatever extent that may be true, there will be unprecedented opportunities during this summer, in connexion with the exhibitions organized during the Festival of Britain, for people to obtain a better understanding and appreciation of what science and scientists are doing.

During the coming season, there will be Exhibitions of Science at South Kensington and of Industrial Power at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, and similar exhibitions will occupy an essential place in the South Bank Exhibition as well as in the Festival Ship *Campania*. There will also be Exhibitions of Architecture, Town Planning and Building Research at Lansbury.

The Exhibition of Books in the Victoria and Albert Museum also has its historical science section. The National Physical Laboratory and other leading scientific institutions will be opening their doors to visitors on various occasions, several important

international congresses of scientists and engineers are being held in Great Britain, and special sessions are being arranged by a number of learned societies.

Great effort and considerable expenditure have gone into these projects, and I am confident that they will reach a high standard. My purpose in writing this message is to invite the support of scientists generally in backing up this initiative in their own particular sphere, and in doing all they can, both collectively and individually, to assist laymen to understand and appreciate what they are doing.

We may confidently hope that these important demonstrations arranged in connexion with the Festival of Britain will lead to some lasting improvement in the relationship between science and the community and in the wider adoption of scientific methods and discoveries. The more help scientists themselves are able to give with this aspect of the Festival the better its results will be.

May I also, as Lord President, take this opportunity of recognizing the invaluable help given by a large number of eminent scientists in deciding on the content of the scientific displays and in bringing them into existence.

ADDISON

April 26, 1951.

NEWS and VIEWS

New Foreign Members of the Royal Society :

Prof. Herbert M. Evans

PROF. HERBERT McLEAN EVANS began his scientific career nearly fifty years ago as an embryologist; but for more than forty years he has exerted a dominating influence in many different aspects of experimental biology, and particularly in endocrinology. His earliest contributions (1904) were anatomical and embryological in interest, and right at the beginning he made important and now classical contributions to the study of vital staining. The introduction of the dye, now known as Evans's blue and still extensively used for the estimation of fluid volume in the animal body, was of particular importance. Prof. Evans's embryological investigations led him to study the ovary, to which organ he applied the methods of vital staining. This led, in 1920, to the study of the oestrous cycle in the rat, which he was the first to describe, and to an investigation of reproductive physiology in general. The inception in 1921 of a series of publications in collaboration with J. A. Long, concerning the influence of the administration of extracts of the thyroid and anterior pituitary glands on the reproductive function in the rat, marks the beginning of Prof. Evans's interest in general endocrinology. This quickly led, in 1922, to the recognition of the growth hormone of the anterior pituitary lobe, and also provided a clear demonstration of the presence of gonadotropins in that lobe. In the same year, investigations were begun on the relationship between fertility and nutrition, which immediately led to the recognition of a hitherto unrecognized dietary factor essential for reproduction, later called vitamin E. During succeeding years the

separation one from another of anterior pituitary hormones, the purification of vitamin E and the influence of different vitamin deficiencies on reproductive activity, were all under investigation by Prof. Evans and his colleagues, and the isolation of α -tocopherol (vitamin E) in collaboration with O. H. and G. H. Emerson was announced in 1936.

In more recent years Prof. Evans has concentrated, in collaboration with C. H. Li and others, on the isolation and characterization, both chemically and biologically, of anterior pituitary hormones, and as a result there have come from his laboratory four protein hormones, the properties and nature of which are still actively under investigation. For thirty years Prof. Evans has exerted an influence in practically every major advance in the fields of reproduction and anterior physiology. Since 1930 he has been director of the Institute of Experimental Biology in the University of California, and there he has developed and directed a large school of vitally active research which still retains a leading position in endocrinology, and through which a steady stream of first-class research workers continues to flow.

Prof. K. S. Lashley

PROF. K. S. LASHLEY holds a chair of experimental psychology at Harvard and at the same time directs the studies of animal behaviour at a large anthropoid colony in Florida. He is one of the foremost authorities in the world at present concerning the neurological basis of animal behaviour. He has conducted a series of experimental studies dealing principally with the establishment of visual and motor habits in rats under controlled conditions. In 1929 his general conclusions were published in the