

up of the Fire Research Station at Elstree, and was then selected for one of the senior posts in the Road Research Laboratory.

Mr. Davies had great powers of industry and concentration: he was first and foremost a sound engineer, quickly able to seize upon the essentials of any technical problem. Not only had he a mind that was clear and precise, but he had also a profound feeling for the use of words and a deep appreciation of good literature. Everything that he wrote had a certain grace; it was accurate and yet readable.

The growth of the Laboratory, and his exceptional abilities in handling administrative problems, pre-

vented him from taking an active part in the research projects, but this did not impair his vision of the directions in which progress could most fruitfully be made: thus he was a keen advocate of research in road safety, and took a large share in the formation and establishment in 1946 of the Traffic and Safety Division of the Road Research Laboratory. Men of his type work in the background of scientific endeavour, but they are essential to it. He combined an inner integrity of character with a charming courtesy and consideration for his friends and colleagues, for which they will long remember him.

T. LONSDALE

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Bacteriology at Glasgow:

Prof. C. H. Browning, F.R.S.

At the end of this academic year, Prof. C. H. Browning retires from the chair of bacteriology in the University of Glasgow which he has held since its foundation in 1919. A distinguished graduate of Glasgow, Prof. Browning later worked in Frankfurt with Ehrlich, from whom he derived his life-long interest in chemotherapy. In 1914 he was appointed director of the Bland Sutton Institute at the Middlesex Hospital, where he successfully developed certain methods for the isolation of intestinal pathogens, for example, the brilliant-green enrichment technique, which had a valuable application during the First World War for the recovery of the causal organisms of enteric fever when present even in very small numbers. Further studies on antiseptics revealed the powerful antiseptic action of the amino-acridines which proved so useful clinically in the prevention of wound sepsis. Prof. Browning returned to the University of Glasgow as the first occupant of the Gardiner chair of bacteriology, and despite his many teaching duties, he has maintained a remarkable output of research both in the scientific journals and in books. In 1924 a second edition of the important work "Recent Methods in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Syphilis" was published (jointly), and, first with Sir Robert Muir and later with T. J. Mackie, Muir and Ritchie's "Manual of Bacteriology" was carried on from the eighth to eleventh editions. Further work on chemotherapy with Miss R. Gulbransen led to the discovery of the phenomenon of therapeutic interference, which has helped to advance knowledge of the underlying principles of specific therapeutic affinity. More recently, jointly with Morgan and Walls, certain phenanthridinium compounds were found to have a remarkable therapeutic effect on *Trypanosoma congolense*, which has proved extremely useful in field-trials on cattle in Africa. Prof. Browning was elected to the Royal Society in 1928 and received an honorary LL.D. from the University of St. Andrews in 1934. In university life Prof. Browning's greatest attribute has been his intense interest in fostering the spirit of inquiry among the younger men in both laboratory and clinical fields, and he has gone to endless trouble in discussing and planning researches and in helping the results to appear in print. For this he will also be gratefully remembered by many generations of Glasgow graduates.

Dr. J. W. Howie

DR. J. W. HOWIE, head of the Pathology and Bacteriology Department and deputy director of the

Rowett Research Institute, has been appointed to succeed Prof. Browning. After graduating in medicine at the University of Aberdeen in 1930, Dr. Howie worked for a year there in the Bacteriology Department and then transferred to the Departments of Bacteriology and Pathology at the University and Western Infirmary of Glasgow, where he began research on experimental streptococcal infection. During 1934-35 he was lecturer in morbid anatomy and histology at Aberdeen, and then during 1935-38 was assistant in bacteriology at Glasgow. In 1938 he returned once more to Aberdeen as lecturer in bacteriology. Dr. Howie volunteered for military service in 1940, and during 1941-43 served in West Africa, where, besides doing the laboratory work for the hospital at Ibadan, Nigeria, he was one of those responsible for advising on and carrying out the measures needed to prevent the spread of yellow fever by aircraft passing through Nigeria to Egypt and India. For the last two years of the War he was at the War Office and was editor of the *Army Medical Department Bulletin* and of *Current Notes for Army Pathologists*; he also edited and wrote substantial portions of the eighth (1946) edition of the War Office handbook, "Memoranda on Medical Diseases in Tropical and Sub-tropical Areas". In 1945 Dr. Howie returned to his teaching duties in the University of Aberdeen, and in the following year was appointed head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Rowett Institute, Aberdeen, later becoming deputy-director of the Institute. Under his guidance the research programme of the reconstituted Department of Pathology and Bacteriology has been organized into three main parts: the influence of nutrition of the host on the course of bacterial infection; the role of the intestinal microflora in nutrition of the host; and the morbid anatomy and histology of the nutritional diseases of animals. Dr. Howie's own particular field is centred on the first of these, but since going to the Rowett Institute he has also become greatly interested in the second field.

### Physics at Bristol:

Dr. S. H. Piper

THE valuable services of Dr. Stephen Harvey Piper to the University of Bristol have been recognized by the creation of a special chair in physics, to be held by him from August 1 next. Dr. Piper graduated from King's College, London, and obtained the degree of D.Sc. of London. After holding a research appointment at University College, Nottingham, he joined the Department of Physics at Bristol in 1921, and was elected reader in 1933. He has been assistant director of the Wills Laboratory since 1948. In 1923