

young man practised his profession in the Maritime Provinces. After the First World War, in which he gained the M.C., he reopened the engineering faculty of the University of Saskatchewan and served as dean of the Engineering College from 1921. In 1939, he succeeded General A. C. L. MacNaughton as acting president of the National Research Council, becoming president in 1944. During the Second World War the staff of the Council expanded from three hundred employees to nearly two thousand, and twenty new laboratories were founded. Notable among these were the experimental station for explosives at Valcartier, the Suffield experimental station and the laboratories for nuclear research at Montreal and Chalk River. Since the War, the development of the research establishments of the Council has proceeded with the discrimination and good judgment which has always been characteristic of Dr. Mackenzie; the scientific staff of the Council has been invigorated by an influx of research fellows; senior staff have been chosen with care and success; and the Chalk River Atomic Energy Research Establishment, with its high-intensity heavy water pile, has established an international reputation by the quality of its work in nuclear physics and atomic energy. The Council has also greatly enlivened the research schools of the Canadian universities by its judicious grants for equipment and studentships. Dr. Mackenzie has therefore a remarkable record of successful administration, and his numerous friends will wish him equal success in his new task.

#### National Research Council of Canada: Review for 1951

MORE detailed and specific information on the work of the laboratories of the National Research Council, Canada, than is possible or desirable in the thirty-fourth annual report of the Council for the year ended March 31, 1951 (see *Nature*, January 26, p. 143), is now available in a publication entitled the "National Research Council Review 1951" (N.R.C. No. 2560; pp. 285+13 plates; Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1952; 75 cents). This is intended for distribution to scientific workers, research institutions and the like, and describes chiefly the work of the Council during the year ended December 31, 1951, but includes some notes on early work in 1951. Stress is laid on the development of the postdoctorate fellowship plan: thirty-four fellows were employed in the Chemistry Division and seventeen in the Physics Division in June 1951, out of a total of fifty-six such Fellows drawn from twenty-four universities in twelve countries. In January 1951 a National Aeronautical Establishment was created, the policy of which, guided by a National Aeronautical Research Committee, will be to achieve an orderly development of facilities in aeronautical research and a closer integration of military and civil requirements. It will be operated on similar lines to the Atomic Energy Project at Chalk River. Besides details of scientific staff and organization, the "Review" includes lists of publications of the various divisions, and reports from the associate committees with particulars of their membership, and of National Research Council staff serving as representatives on outside committees (see also p. 1049 of this issue).

#### Geology at Reading: Prof. H. L. Hawkins, F.R.S.

PROF. H. L. HAWKINS retires from the chair of geology in the University of Reading this year. Prof. Hawkins graduated from the University of Manchester

(where he was the first Mark Stirrup research scholar in palaeontology). He was appointed lecturer in geology in University College, Reading, in 1909, and became professor in 1920. His wit and carefully chosen phrases, blended with his outstanding qualities as a teacher, combined to make all his lectures fascinating, while his skill as a preparator not only enriched the collections he acquired but also led to the accumulation of funds much needed for the youthful Department. Prof. Hawkins will, however, be known to a larger circle by his research. In this his main interest has been in fossil Echinoidea. The series of papers in the *Geological Magazine* between 1909 and 1922, mainly on the Hololectyopidea, illustrate his capacity for careful investigation and grasp of detail; his skill as a preparator is exemplified especially by his paper on the lantern and perignathic girdle of some recent and fossil Echinoidea (*Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, B, 223, 617; 1934). Such detailed morphological studies are, of course, valuable in themselves; but they have a much broader and more important value in the light they throw on problems of phylogeny. This aspect of Prof. Hawkins's work is well illustrated by his classic paper on the morphology and evolution of the ambulacrum in the Echinoidea Hololectyopidea (*Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, B, 209, 377; 1920). Of recent years he has turned more to Cretaceous and Tertiary stratigraphy and tectonics, particularly those of the Thames Basin, both for their geological interest and their bearing on applied science. Prof. Hawkins has received many geological honours; perhaps the one which pleased him most was his election to honorary membership of the Geologists' Association, for he has always been one of the amateur geologists' greatest friends and supporters. All his many colleagues at home and abroad will wish him well when, freed of administrative duties, he can devote his whole time to his favourite studies.

#### Dr. P. Allen

DR. P. ALLEN, who succeeds Prof. Hawkins, is the first Reading graduate to return there as a professor. After taking his Ph.D. at Reading and acting for some years as assistant lecturer, he was appointed to the staff of the Department of Geology at Cambridge, first as demonstrator and then as University lecturer. His main topic of research has been in sedimentary petrology, to which he has brought rigorous statistical controls. Most of his published work has been on the Wealden deposits of Great Britain; but recently he was awarded the Sedgwick Prize for an essay on the Wealden stratigraphy of Northern Europe. At Reading, Dr. Allen will have plenty of scope for developing his chosen line of research, and we may look forward to the growth of a school of sedimentary petrology which will be founded on the broadest base of stratigraphical geology. Dr. Allen has proved himself to be no narrow-minded specialist but a geologist who can see problems in their widest perspective. With his enthusiasm and known teaching ability, we may rest assured that the school of geology at Reading, so ably established by Prof. Hawkins, will continue to grow in stature.

#### American Academy of Arts and Sciences: Foreign Honorary Members

THE following have been elected foreign honorary members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: *Class I (Mathematical and Physical Sciences)*, Prof. Cornelius Gorter, director of the Kamerlingh