

recorded, so that a detailed quantitative analysis is desirable. Perception of the distinctive odours suggests that honeybees possess a much more delicate capacity for distinguishing between different mixtures of odours than has been described²⁰. It is certain that the most important function of the distinctive odours is facilitation of the social coherence and defence of the community.

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NEWS and VIEWS

British Association: President for 1953

THE president-elect of the British Association for 1953, when the annual meeting will be held in Liverpool, is Sir Edward Appleton, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Edinburgh since 1949. Sir Edward is well known among men of science both as an original investigator of outstanding ability and also as an administrator of scientific research. His fundamental work on the transmission of radio waves, carried out while he was Wheatstone professor of physics in the University of London (King's College) and later Jacksonian professor of natural philosophy in the University of Cambridge, received just acknowledgment by the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1947. Then in 1939 he gave up the direct pursuit of research to become secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, a post which he held for ten years—a period which saw the growth on an enormous scale of the participation of the State in fundamental scientific research and development. In all this activity Sir Edward was one of the leading figures, and his wisdom and characteristically gentle but persuasive drive enabled him to exert widespread influence. In 1949 came another change, when he went to the University of Edinburgh as principal and vice-chancellor, thus in a way completing his change-over to interest in administrative activities. Here he has already made his mark in the University, though he contrives to maintain his interest in his own special field of radio research. The British Association is fortunate in having so many-sided a man to guide it during the coming year.

Psychology at Manchester: Prof. T. H. Pear

PROF. T. H. PEAR, who retired from the chair of psychology at Manchester in 1951, is to be succeeded by Dr. John Cohen, lately of Birkbeck College, London. Prof. Pear's tenure of his appointment has been of notable length, for it began in 1919, when

a lectureship of which he had been the first occupant was upgraded. He had previously been a student at King's College, London, and at Würzburg and Giessen; and, like that of many pioneers of psychology, his work was originally developed under the wing of philosophy with strong links with both physics and physiology. He has displayed great variety in his interests. From motion-study in coal-getting to the investigation of the expression of personality through the voice is a great jump, but Pear has been equal to it. In recent years he has focused his attention mainly on social psychological problems falling on the verge of social anthropology, and he has been particularly active in discussions on the social responsibilities of psychologists in the international field. He has been president of Section J (Psychology) of the British Association; and of the British Psychological Society. He has also been Buchanan-Riddell Lecturer in the University of Durham. Of his dozen or so books, his first two, "Remembering and Forgetting" and "Skill in Work and Play", have been perhaps the most influential.

Prof. J. Cohen

DR. JOHN COHEN, who succeeds Prof. Pear, is also a London graduate. He was at University College for eight years, under Sir Cyril Burt, and wrote his Ph.D. thesis on the "Statistical Study of Physical and Mental Types". During the Second World War he was in the Cabinet Office and spent much of his time as joint secretary of the War Cabinet Committee on the Use of Psychologists and Psychiatrists in the Services. Later, as a member of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses, he stimulated considerable discussion by an outspoken and cogently expressed minority report. In 1948 he became lecturer in psychology at Leeds, and in 1949 he was appointed to the chair of psychology in the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Prof. Cohen also is greatly interested in social psychology. He has carried out two investigations for Unesco, and has been closely associated with the World Federation for Mental Health since its inception. Another of his concerns is the experimental study of higher mental processes. Recently, in addition to lecturing at Birkbeck College, where his scholarship and integrity have been greatly valued, he has been engaged on an inquiry for the Acton Society Trust on the effectiveness of working units in relation to their size. He has published papers in the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, the *Journal of Mental Science*, the *Journal of General Psychology*, the *Eugenics Review*, *Psychiatry*, *Occupational Psychology* and the *British Medical Journal*.

Proposed British Agricultural History Society

IN the spring of this year, a well-attended meeting was held to consider the formation of a British Agricultural History Society. At this meeting a small committee was formed to explore the possibilities. The committee's inquiries were met with a promising enthusiasm, and it has now been arranged to hold an inaugural meeting under the chairmanship of Sir James Scott Watson. The director of the Science Museum, South Kensington, S.W.7, has allowed this meeting to be held in the Lecture Theatre of the Museum on September 25, at 2.30 p.m. The scope of the proposed Society's labours is to cover agriculture in all its phases, human and technical. The social life of all classes of rural society from the earliest ages is one branch of the subject.