

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Royal Society: Foreign Members

THE following have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society: Louis Victor Pierre Raymond, Prince de Broglie (Paris), distinguished for his contributions to quantum theory; Marie Jules Constant Robert Courrier (Paris), distinguished for his contributions to endocrinology; Hermann Joseph Muller (Bloomington, Indiana), distinguished for his contributions to the chromosome theory of heredity; Wolfgang Pauli (Zurich), distinguished for his contributions to theoretical physics, in particular the formulation of the exclusion principle.

## Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine: Appointments

PROF. W. T. J. MORGAN has been appointed deputy director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; Prof. Morgan is already on the staff of the Institute and is professor of biochemistry in the University of London.

Dr. B. A. D. Stocker has been appointed head of the newly created Guinness Unit for Microbiology at the Lister Institute. The establishment of this Unit, for the study of general microbiology, was made possible through the generosity of Arthur Guinness, Ltd. After a war career in the medical branch of the R.A.F.V.R., with which he served mostly in India and Burma, Dr. Stocker was successively demonstrator, lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His research work has been directed mainly to bacterial genetics, particularly mutation-rates of flagellar antigens in *Salmonella typhi-murium*; and, during the tenure of a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in the United States, with type transformation in *Pneumococcus* and with the transduction of genetic characters by bacteriophages in which he applied the discoveries of Zinder and Lederberg to the transduction of flagellar characters in *Salmonella*. Dr. Stocker is thirty-five.

## Contributions of Science to Peace

IN his Alexander Wood Memorial Lecture for 1953, "Contributions of Science to Peace", delivered at Friends House, London, on February 18 (pp. 28; from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 38 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1; 1s. 6d.), Prof. C. A. Coulson rejects equally the view that science alone can lead us into the world of peace or that science should be abandoned. Science, he said, will always be with us, and we can ignore neither the dangers nor the benefits it offers. There are ways in which science, by providing a better understanding of ourselves, can assist those who seek for peace. Analysis of statistical data presented by Quincy Wright in 1942 suggested that wars, of all sorts and sizes, differ qualitatively as well as quantitatively from personal quarrels and that there is no basis for the belief that the world learns by experience that war is foolish, or fruitless, or an anachronism out of which we are continually growing. It also suggests that the problems of peace are not just technological, but composite both of technology and morals. Directing attention to the way in which mankind lives continually on the brink of famine, Prof. Coulson concluded that only an enlightened scientific policy can deal constructively with situations of under-nourishment such as confront us, for example, in Persia or in the British

Colonial Empire. Science, moreover, is required to improve world supplies of energy as well as of food, and Prof. Coulson referred particularly to the value which nuclear power might hold for the Middle East or India if developed there, as well as to the possibility of utilizing wind-power, the tides or solar energy. Science, properly directed and shared, he said, can help to build the defences of peace and to safeguard the freedom and spirit of men. In one sense the responsibility of the man of science does not differ essentially from that of anyone else: scientific workers are not necessarily wiser than their comrades in the use of science. Science alone is not enough; but Prof. Coulson, while welcoming the increasing concern of scientific workers with the social implications of science, did not advocate the adoption of some sort of Hippocratic oath for scientists. He suggested that what is needed is a new dedicated type of scientific worker who, recognizing the wholeness of life and the place of science in that wholeness, will not be deterred by danger or difficulty from seeking to further the contribution which science can render in shaping a new world.

## British Agricultural History Society: Inaugural Conference in Reading

THE inaugural conference of the British Agricultural History Society was held at the University of Reading on April 13 and was attended by more than a hundred people representing a very wide variety of interests and professions from all over the British Isles. Sir James Scott Watson addressed the conference on "The Scope of Agricultural History", and Sir Frank Stenton spoke on "The Manor in English History". Later in the day, the conference had the opportunity of visiting the Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading. The officers of the Society are as follows: *President*, Sir James Scott Watson (chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture); *Treasurer*, Prof. E. Thomas (professor of agricultural economics, University of Reading); *Executive Committee*, Mr. Alexander Hay (*chairman*) (general secretary of the Association of Agriculture), Mr. Frank Atkinson (director of the Halifax Museums), Mr. John Cripps (editor of *The Countryman*), Mr. R. N. Dixey (director, Institute of Agrarian Affairs, Oxford), Mr. G. E. Fussell (author), Captain E. N. Griffith (president of the Agricultural Engineers' Association), Mr. Stuart Maxwell (National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh), Mr. W. E. Minchinton (lecturer in economic history, University College, Swansea), Mr. G. Ordish (Plant Protection, Ltd.), Mr. F. G. Payne (Welsh Folk Museum), Mrs. Joan Thirsk (senior research fellow in agrarian history, University College, Leicester) and Mr. R. Trow-Smith (*Farmer and Stockbreeder*). The main object of the Society, as outlined in the constitution, is to promote the study of the history of agriculture and rural economy, though it is not intended that the interests of the Society should be solely confined to the history of the British countryside. It is hoped that, by publishing a journal and holding occasional conferences, the Society will be able to bring together all those working on, or merely interested in, any aspect of rural history. Membership is open to all, the annual subscription being one guinea. Membership forms and copies of the constitution will be available shortly. All inquiries should be sent to the secretary of the Society, Mr. J. W. Y. Higgs, Museum of English Rural Life, 7 Shinfield Road, Reading.