

NEWS and VIEWS

Research at the Wellcome Foundation:

Dr. J. W. Trevan, F.R.S.

ON August 31, Dr. J. W. Trevan retired from his appointments as director of the Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, and temporary director of research in the Wellcome Foundation, Ltd., the latter post dating from the death of the late Dr. C. H. Kellaway. Dr. Trevan obtained his medical qualification in 1911, and thereafter for some years worked in the Physiology Department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where he studied renal secretion, respiration, ketosis in diabetes, and the viscosity of the blood. In the First World War he served as pathologist in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Near East, and returned to England in 1920 to join the staff of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories as pharmacologist. Here his studies covered a wide diversity of subjects, such as local anaesthetics, the chemotherapy of trypanosomiasis, and quinine alkaloids. He became interested in the biological assay of insulin, and soon was keenly aware of the fallacies inherent in the methods then used for this purpose. Being of a mathematical turn of mind, he applied himself to a statistical study of the subject and ultimately evolved the 'LD50' technique which is now widely used in assessing toxicity. This work was published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, of which Society he was elected a Fellow in 1946. Latterly, his energies have been devoted mainly to administration, and it was under his direction that vast quantities of biological products used by the medical services during the Second World War were prepared. Although now retiring from his administrative appointments, Dr. Trevan, in the capacity of special consultant, is maintaining his connexion with the Wellcome Foundation.

Dr. D. W. Adamson

DR. D. W. ADAMSON, who succeeds Dr. Trevan as research director of the Wellcome Foundation, Ltd., and director of the Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, graduated at Manchester in 1932, proceeded to a Ph.D. under Prof. J. Kenner, and was a demonstrator until 1936. He then went to Magdalen College, Oxford, worked under Sir Robert Robinson for three years and graduated D.Phil. He spent the war years at the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton, becoming the head of a section dealing with the identification of war gases. Towards the end of the War he went to Germany with a temporary commission to work with the Allied scientific intelligence organization. He joined the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories in 1945 and, on the retirement of Dr. Sydney Smith and the reorganization of the Wellcome Research Laboratories in 1948, he became head of the Chemical Division under Dr. Trevan, then director of the Beckenham laboratories. Dr. Adamson's own particular interest at the Wellcome laboratories has been centred largely around compounds of the propanolamine and allylamine types. The intensive and extensive chemical work he has carried on over the years has given an extraordinarily fruitful harvest of compounds of pharmacological interest and therapeutic value. Among these are a potent antihistamine, an analgesic for dogs (a species intolerant to morphine), and some spasmolytics used

in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and for the inhibition of gastric motility. All this work, in which, of course, Dr. Adamson collaborated with several colleagues, both pharmacological and chemical, has demonstrated his ability to lead teams of workers; his new appointment gives him much wider scope for the organization of research, for which he has shown great aptitude.

University College in Southern Rhodesia

AT the invitation of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies, a delegation from the Rhodesias and Nyasaland recently visited London to discuss the plans for a university college in Central Africa (see *Nature*, July 4, p. 1). The delegation was largely representative of the Rhodesian University Inaugural Board, and during its visit it had discussions with the Inter-University Council and with representatives of the University of London. Full agreement in principle was reached regarding the establishment of the university college, and it was also proposed that it should seek to enter into a special relationship with the University of London. After these discussions, the Government has provisionally agreed to make a grant of £1,250,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund towards the establishment of a university college open to all races at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. The grant is subject to certain conditions, regarding particularly the adequacy of the site, the autonomy of the administering body and to provision being made for recurrent expenditure to be met from other sources. Fuller details will be announced when the delegation has returned to Salisbury and has discussed these proposals with the inaugural board and the authorities concerned in Central Africa.

United Kingdom Agricultural Representatives in the United States

THE following announcements have been made by the Agricultural Departments of the United Kingdom: Mr. B. A. Cash-Reed, food attaché in Washington, has been appointed attaché for food and agriculture; Mr. Neil Frank McCann has taken up his duties as agricultural adviser (technical) in the United States, and is attached to the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington; Mr. M. Whalley Taylor, deputy agricultural attaché, has returned to the United Kingdom.

Mr. N. F. McCann was a student at the Harper Adams Agricultural College and in 1929 he obtained the B.Sc. degree in agriculture of the University of London. After practical farming experience, he joined the staff of the Cheshire School of Agriculture. In 1939 he was seconded to the Cheshire War Agricultural Executive Committee. Since 1946 he has been county agricultural officer in Nottingham.

Nuffield Gerontological Research Fellowships

THE Nuffield Foundation invited applications some time ago for a Nuffield Research Fellowship for research on the scientific aspects of ageing, to be awarded by a selection committee appointed equally by the Royal Society of London and the Foundation. One fellowship of professorial status or alternatively one or more of less senior status was proposed. The Foundation was, however, impressed by the quality of the candidates, and decided to award two fellowships, one of professorial and one of less senior status; in order to meet the additional award the sum which was reserved has been increased from £25,000 to