

a chair which carried with it the directorship of the University Department of Education. There was already an endowed chair of education at Manchester, the Sarah Fielden professorship, which had been occupied for some ten years by the brilliant but somewhat erratic J. J. Findlay, who was more of an idealist than an administrator. Bompas Smith was brought in and given the headship of the Department, primarily to ensure that the wheels should run smoothly, and that the necessary contacts with schools, local authorities and the Board of Education should be handled by an experienced headmaster. It did not work out quite like this. He used to tell that before he had held his chair for six months, his views were brushed aside at a teachers' conference as those of "a mere theorist"; and in any event, in his later years at Manchester, he was more of a thinker than an organizer, though he was notably successful as chairman of the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board.

His main intellectual interest lay in philosophy. His best-known book, under the unrevealing title of "The Nation's Schools", is an interesting, and by no means unsuccessful, attempt to inculcate a somewhat conservative philosophy of education without using

technical terms. He kept in touch with current developments in psychology, serving to the end of his life on the advisory board of the *British Journal of Educational Psychology*. But he made no original contributions in this field, and was never disposed to believe that a knowledge of psychological theory or technique could replace common sense as part of a teacher's equipment.

Bompas Smith was a kindly man, and genuinely interested in people, but not very quick in getting to know others or making himself known; and this handicapped his relations with the large annual batch of graduates at Manchester whom he taught for their postgraduate course in education. Most of them did not really get to know him, nor he them. Those few who did, obtained real benefit from his wise and balanced outlook upon life in general and education in particular. He disliked controversy, and the Manchester Senate of those days abounded in doughty controversialists. Perhaps he was too reluctant to speak up for his Department, and perhaps, for this reason, the University tended to under-estimate him. But he secured and retained the loyalty and affection of the staff of his own Department.

JAMES DUFF

NEWS and VIEWS

Jenner Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine :

Mr. A. T. Glenny, F.R.S.

ON October 10 Mr. A. T. Glenny was presented with the Jenner Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine, which is awarded on the recommendation of the Section of Epidemiology, for distinguished work in the field of epidemic diseases. Mr. Glenny began his career in 1900 at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, became head of the Immunological Department before the First World War and retired under the age limit in 1947. He continued to carry on research at the Laboratories after his retirement and is still active after a period of yet unbroken association with the Laboratories of more than fifty-three years. His major concern has been the study of animal responses to soluble bacterial toxins and toxoids, made largely in the course of the routine production of antitoxin in horses. He developed the Römer guinea-pig skin test into a method of assay for diphtheria antitoxin, which is as accurate as many chemical titrations of simple substances. He has taken advantage of the variation of the response of horses to different toxins, to analyse by antitoxin titrations the great complexity of the antigenic constitution of filtrates of cultures of pathogenic anaerobes. Mr. Glenny's most important work is the study of the two types of response to the injection of antigens, the 'primary' and 'secondary' response, which has been fundamental to the development of methods of large-scale prophylaxis against diphtheria and tetanus. This study led to the development of alum-precipitated toxoid, now the standard prophylactic against diphtheria, which has been used with such dramatic results in the past decade in the control of diphtheria in Great Britain.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust :

Mr. D. N. Lowe, O.B.E.

MR. DAVID N. LOWE, who has been secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of

Science since 1946, has been appointed secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust in succession to Mr. J. Wilkie, who is due to retire on March 31, 1954. Mr. Lowe, who was born in 1909, was educated at Arbroath High School and at the University of St. Andrews, which he entered as a Kitchener Scholar. He was awarded a blue for hockey, founded a mountaineering club, and held many student offices, including the presidency of the Union and the Students' Representative Council. He graduated M.A. (English and history) and B.Sc. (with first-class honours in botany). After a short period of research on the marine algae of the coasts of Fife, he became the assistant secretary of the British Association in 1935. At the outbreak of war he accepted an invitation to enter the Civil Service, where he served in the Cabinet Secretariat as secretary of various ministerial committees concerned with priority and allocation of materials. Shortly before returning to the British Association as secretary he was awarded an O.B.E. in the New Year Honours List of 1946. Mr. Lowe has been prominent in local affairs at Dorking, where he has held office in the Congregational Church, and has participated annually in the Leith Hill Musical Festival. It is as secretary of the British Association that Mr. Lowe has become widely known, however, and his services in the critical post-war period, when the fate of the British Association was in the balance, were invaluable. He has filled his present post with distinction, and the fund of goodwill which has remained after recent meetings has been largely due to his exceptional tact and organizing ability.

William McIlrath Fellowship for Research and Teaching in Animal Husbandry

THE Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has decided to apply a gift of £A50,000 from Mr. William McIlrath, owner of the Windsor Hereford Cattle Stud, Delungra, N.S.W., to found the William McIlrath Fellowship