

## NEWS and VIEWS

Chemistry at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne  
(University of Durham):

Prof. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones

ON the retirement of Prof. G. R. Clemo, who has been director of the Chemical Laboratories at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, since 1932, Prof. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones becomes professor of chemistry and head of the Chemistry Department. Prof. Wynne-Jones, who was appointed to the chair of physical chemistry in the College in 1947, has carried out distinguished work in the field of chemical kinetics (see *Nature*, 160, 291; 1947).

## Organic Chemistry: Prof. G. R. Clemo, F.R.S.

PROF. G. R. CLEMO retires at the end of this session from the chair of organic chemistry at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, which he has occupied since 1925. Clemo received his early training at University College, Exeter, and, after a period as science master at Penzance, he went to the Queen's College, Oxford, to work under Dr. Chattaway. His experimental skill was used to the full during the First World War, when he worked in a team under Prof. W. H. Perkin on the synthesis of dyestuffs which were urgently needed because the industry had been allowed to lapse in Britain, whereas it was extensively developed in Germany. In the years immediately following the War he continued to work under Perkin and was a well-known figure in the Dyson Perrins Laboratories at Oxford. In 1924 Clemo was appointed director of the research laboratories of the British Dyestuffs Corporation at Manchester, a post which he relinquished on his appointment to the chair of organic chemistry at Armstrong College (now King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne). His tenure of the chair has been marked by considerable productivity and by the growth of the Department to its present high position in the chemical world. Clemo in his own work has been an outstanding disciple of Baeyer and Perkin, and, while his interests have ranged over the whole field of natural products, he has contributed particularly to an understanding of the lupin alkaloids. He and his associates have also synthesized anti-malarials related to quinine, and in recent years Clemo has been studying the little-known alkaloid tazettine isolated from snowdrops, and has directed his attention to the widespread black pigment, melanin. Throughout his career Clemo has been devoted to the laboratory bench, and has set an example of personal industry which has stimulated his associates.

Prof. F. S. Spring, F.R.S.

PROF. F. S. SPRING, who is to succeed Prof. Clemo, was educated at Waterloo Grammar School and in the University of Liverpool, where he began research work under Prof. I. M. Heilbron. In 1930 Spring went as assistant lecturer to the University of Manchester, and had attained the position of senior lecturer when he left in 1946 on his appointment as Freeland professor of chemistry in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow. In his association with Prof. Heilbron as pupil and collaborator, Spring carried out an extensive and an impressive study of the chemistry of the sterols. Since going to Glasgow, he has built up a flourishing school of organic chemistry which has made important contributions to the

chemistry of the steroid and triterpenoid groups of chemical substances. In this study they have succeeded in isolating triterpenoids of unusual structure from *Strychnos nux-vomica* and from opium. Spring's work has led him to close association with the medical aspects of organic chemistry, and he has been investigating possibilities in the synthesis of cortisone as well as the possible relationship of steroid metabolism to arthritis. Spring has shown himself a master of experimental method and an original investigator: his enthusiasm and energy combined with his clear insight into problems of organic chemistry ensure that the development of this subject will continue in Newcastle.

Directorship of the Bermuda Biological Station :  
Dr. L. W. Hutchins

DR. LOUIS W. HUTCHINS has been forced by ill-health to retire from the directorship of the Bermuda Biological Station, in which capacity he has served since 1949. Dr. Hutchins is a graduate of Yale University, receiving his doctorate in zoology in 1941, and was Mary S. Muellhaupt Scholar at Ohio State University during 1941-42. He then became associated with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in connexion with investigations being made for the United States Navy on the prevention of marine fouling, and he contributed several chapters to a monograph on "The Prevention of Marine Fouling", prepared by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for the Navy. Dr. Hutchins is a specialist on the salt-water Bryozoa and has made important contributions to the interpretation of temperature zonation in geographical distribution. He is now an associate on the staff of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The Bermuda Station was founded in 1901 by Dr. E. L. Mark, of Harvard University, for the scientific study of biology. When it was reorganized and incorporated in 1931, it received an endowment from the Rockefeller Foundation to permit it to function also as an oceanographic station, for which its location is admirable. Dr. Hutchins was well fitted to develop this part of its activities, and he immediately initiated a general oceanographic programme for working out the economy of the waters inside the fringing reefs and their relationships with the ocean water outside.

Dr. W. H. Sutcliffe, jun.

DR. WILLIAM H. SUTCLIFFE, JUN., who has been appointed to succeed Dr. Hutchins at the Bermuda Biological Station, has served as staff biologist at the Station since 1951 and is consequently well acquainted with the local situation and the fauna of the islands. A native of Florida, he was educated at Emory University and at Duke University, where he was granted his doctor's degree in 1950 for studies in marine ecology. Prior to going to Bermuda, he worked at the Institute of Fisheries Research of the University of North Carolina, where he conducted research on zooplankton and on the commercially important shrimp of Carolina waters. At Bermuda he has been investigating the biology of the spiny lobster, *Panulirus guttatus*, on behalf of the Bermudan Government. He has published papers on the taxonomy of the calanoid copepods of North Carolina waters and on the breeding and migration of the spiny lobster. Dr. Sutcliffe brings to his task as director experience in the application of oceanography to fishery problems. His pre-