

NEWS and VIEWS

Physical and Inorganic Chemistry at Bristol :

Prof. W. E. Garner, C.B.E., F.R.S.

PROF. W. E. GARNER is retiring after twenty-seven years from the Leverhulme chair of physical and inorganic chemistry in the University of Bristol, to which he was appointed in 1926, in succession to the late Prof. J. W. McBain. Prof. Garner's energy and outstanding ability have been devoted to the well-being of the Chemistry Department and research, and to the fostering of collaboration between different departments of the University and between his Department and industry. He created the inter-departmental honours school of biological chemistry in 1950. During the Second World War the resources of the Chemistry Department were marshalled for explosives research, and Prof. Garner whole-heartedly applied himself to national work, becoming temporarily, in 1944, chief superintendent of armaments research at Fort Halstead. His researches have been typically broad. He has made valuable contributions to the study of flames and of explosions in gases and solids. His pioneer work on nucleation and decomposition of azides and hydrates, and on the relations between the physical properties and the chain lengths of aliphatic compounds, is of fundamental importance. Work on the surface chemistry of solids, and on the heat and kinetics of adsorption, developed later into an intensive study of oxide catalysts. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1937, made president of the Faraday Society in 1946 and pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Bristol in 1952. Students and colleagues of Prof. Garner have all been inspired by his enthusiasm and insight, and he has always been approachable by even the most junior. Scrupulous fairness, talent for securing willing co-operation, and his ability to put first the real interests of others, have made his Department a most happy one.

Prof. D. H. Everett, M.B.E.

PROF. D. H. EVERETT, professor of chemistry since 1948 at University College, Dundee, in the University of St. Andrews, has been appointed to succeed Prof. W. E. Garner in the Leverhulme chair at Bristol. Prof. Everett received his scientific training in the University of Reading, and his first researches were done there and at Dundee under Prof. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones. In 1939 he went as a Ramsay Fellow to work on reaction kinetics under Mr. R. P. Bell at Balliol College, Oxford, but after a short time joined Sir Cyril Hinshelwood's research team working for the Ministry of Supply. From 1942 until the end of the War he was attached to the War Office and undertook scientific liaison missions to the Middle and Far East. Prof. Everett returned to Oxford as an Imperial Chemical Industries Fellow, and in 1947, after a short period as lecturer in Dundee, was elected to an official fellowship at Exeter College, Oxford. He was appointed to the chair in Dundee in 1948, and during the past six years he has supervised the extension and re-equipping of the Chemistry Department and has established a vigorous research school which is working on the thermodynamics of acid-base equilibria, the electrochemistry of non-aqueous solutions, reaction kinetics, the thermodynamics of adsorption, and the phenomenon of physico-chemical hysteresis. He has also translated and revised Prigogine and Defay's "Chemical Thermodynamics", which is to be published very shortly.

Geology Division of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Ltd. :
Dr. G. M. Lees, F.R.S.

DR. G. M. LEES has retired from his appointment as chief geologist of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Ltd. He had a distinguished record in the First World War with the Royal Flying Corps, winning the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross, and later served as an assistant political officer in Southern Kurdistan. He joined the Anglo-Iranian Company in 1921 and his early work lay in south-west Persia and Oman; he was awarded a doctorate of philosophy in the University of Vienna for his researches in Oman. He was appointed chief geologist to the Company in 1930 at the age of thirty-two and thereafter worked in many different parts of the world. It was a period of intensive exploration and development; in all this Dr. Lees played an important part, demonstrating remarkable geological knowledge and a shrewd appreciation of practical problems. It was he, too, who inspired the search for oil in Great Britain which led to the discovery and exploitation of oilfields in Nottinghamshire. In 1943 he was awarded the Bigsby Medal of the Geological Society of London and in 1948 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was president of the Geological Society in 1951 and 1952. It is noteworthy that in his presidential addresses, delivered with his customary skill in exposition, he was concerned with fundamental concepts in geology, bringing to bear upon them the knowledge and experience gained in many countries. His work has always shown the essential unity of pure and applied science.

Mr. P. T. Cox, M.B.E., and Mr. N. L. Falcon

FOLLOWING Dr. Lees's retirement, Mr. P. T. Cox has been appointed chief geologist and exploration manager of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., and Mr. N. L. Falcon manager of the Company's geological division. Mr. Cox is a graduate of Canterbury University College, Christchurch, New Zealand, and after a short period on the Geological Survey of that country joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. in 1924. He has worked in many countries, notably Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and the Middle East. He made a special study under Prof. Douvillé in Paris of Foraminifera, so important in oilfield geology. He was associated with Dr. Lees in the search for oil in Great Britain, and joint author with him of a paper on the geological basis of that search. He served with the Royal Engineers during the Second World War and was made M.B.E. He returned to Persia after demobilization and became general manager of the Company's oilfields there in 1948.

Mr. Falcon joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. in 1927 after graduation in the University of Cambridge. He served in Persia until 1936, undertaking extensive geological surveys as well as oilfield development. Later he took part in the exploration drilling programme in Great Britain and became increasingly interested in the applications of air photography to geology. He served in the Intelligence Corps during the Second World War, his duties including the study of air photographs, and he was awarded the United States Bronze Star. Since the War, he has been concerned with a wide range of geological problems in Great Britain, Europe and the Middle East. He is author or joint author of papers on various subjects such as gravity-slip phenomena in Persia and the results of geophysical surveys in England.