

further loss when the Centre was bombed in 1944. The fruits of this period are to be found on our shelves in such stimulating books as "Dynamique du sol", "Croissance des végétaux", "Guide pour l'étude expérimentale du sol", "L'évolution scientifique de l'agriculture" and "Génétique des sols".

In all his work we find Demolon rejecting the empirical approach in favour of a sincere attempt to understand the processes at work. He was convinced

that this is the surest way to obtain results of practical value in agriculture.

His election to the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1946 marked the beginning of a final period in which he rendered valuable service as adviser to the International Superphosphate Manufacturers' Association, a post which brought him into close contact with many industrial organizations serving agriculture.

R. K. SCHOFIELD

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Carnegie Institution of Washington:

Dr. C. P. Haskins

DR. CARYL P. HASKINS, president and director of research of Haskins Laboratories, New York City, has been elected president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in succession to Dr. Vannevar Bush, who will retire on January 1, 1956. Dr. Haskins was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1908, and graduated from Yale University in 1930. After four years in the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company and graduate study at Harvard University, where he received a Ph.D. in 1935, Dr. Haskins established the Haskins Laboratories, a non-profit scientific and educational foundation. This foundation has for eighteen years devoted itself mainly to basic scientific research and research training in selected pioneer fields. With a small staff supported by private funds and grants from various foundations, its original activities were confined mainly to the fields of biochemistry and biophysics; but in recent years it has moved into the field of psychoacoustics, which involves a new approach to some of the fundamental aspects of speech. One of Dr. Haskins's books, "Of Societies and Men" (1950), is particularly interesting in that it sets forth in a novel way significant trends in the formation, growth and duration of societies, drawing information from evolution, palaeontology, genetics and biochemistry, and tracing parallels in the social evolution of many different kinds of organisms. Among its conclusions is that over-regimentation and over-specialization destroy in time the self-reliance and flexibility of individuals in the society, and the society then often fails to adjust itself to changes in environment. During the Second World War, Dr. Haskins served with the National Defense Research Committee and the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and since the War has acted as a consultant to the Departments of Defense and State. He has been a research professor in biophysics at Union College, Schenectady, since 1937, and president of the National Photocolor Corporation of New York City since 1938. In 1948 he was awarded the Certificate of Merit and in the same year received from Great Britain the King's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom.

### Atomic Energy Authority: Appointments

MR. ERIC H. UNDERWOOD has been appointed director of public relations to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. He will take up his duties early in the New Year. He goes to the Authority from the Central Office of Information, where he was director of the Photographs Division and, earlier, chief editor of overseas magazines. Mr. Underwood, who is forty-one years of age, was educated at Dulwich College. He was a provincial newspaperman until

1940, when he joined the Royal Air Force. At the end of hostilities in Europe he was seconded to the Control Commission for Germany as a squadron-leader press officer until his demobilization at the end of 1945. In January 1946 he was appointed deputy director of public relations at the newly formed Control Office for Germany and Austria, and transferred to the Foreign Office in the following year, going to the Central Office of Information in 1949. Mr. Stanley White, who has been acting as press officer on secondment from the Ministry of Supply, has now been appointed to that post with the Authority. The Authority's Press Office will move from Bedford Chambers to St. Giles Court, St. Giles High Street, London, W.C.2, early in 1955.

### Harwell Isotope School

THE Harwell Isotope School, which since it was founded in 1951 has had 329 students from twenty-nine different countries, is now preparing its programme for the forthcoming year. Training is given at this School in the applications of radioactive materials in research and industry and in the techniques of producing, measuring and handling such materials. Countries besides the United Kingdom from which students have already been trained are Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.S.A. and Yugoslavia. The courses, which last for four weeks, include both lectures and practical work in the laboratory. Students should be graduates of a university. The courses for early 1955 are already fully booked, but there are at present vacancies on Course 27 (April 25-May 20) and Course 28 (June 27-July 22). Further information can be obtained on application to: The Isotope School, A.E.R.E., Harwell, Berks.

### International Tin Research Council and Tin Research Institute: Appointments

FOLLOWING the retirement at the end of this year of Mr. John Ireland, Dr. Ernest S. Hedges will become director of the International Tin Research Council and director of the Tin Research Institute. In addition, Dr. W. E. Hoare and Mr. W. R. Lewis have been appointed assistant directors. Dr. Hedges, who was educated at the Universities of Manchester and London, was at one time Darbshire Fellow of the University of Manchester, and later lecturer in chemistry in the University of London. He was appointed to the staff of the Tin Research Institute in 1932 and has been director of research since 1939. He is the author of several books on chemistry and metallurgy, and of more than a hundred research