

of lucid exposition, have long endeared him to the industry, and to-day there is no man who stands higher in the respect and affection of the glasshouse growers of Great Britain. Not least among his admirers are the growers of the Channel Islands, to whom he pays regular visits.

#### Mr. F. W. Toovey, O.B.E.

MR. F. W. TOOVEY, who has been appointed to succeed Dr. Bewley, graduated from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where he was awarded the Forbes Medal and Prize. He was then selected for the Colonial Agricultural Service, and after postgraduate work at Cambridge and in Trinidad, was appointed to the Nigerian Agricultural Department in 1935. In Nigeria his work was concerned almost exclusively with the oil palm, a crop of the greatest importance in the economy of the country. Twenty years ago, very little study had been devoted to the crop, but a lead had been given by the fine work that was being done by the Belgians at the I.N.E.A.C. In 1938 Mr. Toovey was sent to the Belgian Congo to report on the progress made in oil palm research there, and returned to take part in the development of the Oil Palm Research Station of the Agricultural Department of Nigeria. Largely under his direction, this station, which covered, initially, 4,000 acres of undeveloped tropical forest, was built up as the main centre for oil palm research in Nigeria, with many supporting out-stations. In 1952 the station assumed responsibility for research in all the British West African territories, becoming an autonomous institute known as the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research (W.A.I.F.O.R.). Mr. Toovey was appointed its first director, and for his services was made O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list of 1955.

#### Chair of Marine Engineering at Newcastle upon Tyne

THE Council of King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne (University of Durham), has announced the receipt of £35,500 from local industrial firms towards the endowment of a new chair of marine engineering at the College. This sum is additional to some £22,000 which was contributed to the College two years ago and earmarked for the development of marine engineering studies. The two sums together provide sufficient funds to proceed immediately to the appointment of the first professor. A separate undergraduate course in marine engineering has been provided at the College—then Armstrong College—since 1913, in the Department of Mechanical and Marine Engineering, of which the present head is Dr. Aubrey Burstall, professor of mechanical engineering. In August 1954 he suggested to the Council that the Department had grown so large that a second professor should be appointed to work in his Department and that he should be designated professor of marine engineering. This proposal was accepted and afterwards widely approved by industrialists and others concerned in marine engineering in Britain. It is hoped to attract more university men into the marine engineering industry and to develop a centre for marine engineering studies at King's College, where there already exists one of the largest university departments of naval architecture (under Prof. L. C. Burrill) in Britain.

#### Protection against Ionizing Radiations

THE International Labour Office made history in the field of protection against ionizing radiation when, in 1949, it introduced its Model Code of Safety Regulations. The relevant sections of the code are included in a report submitted to the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Geneva, 1955 (The Protection of Workers against Ionising Radiations (International Labour Office, Geneva, 1955), 50 cents; 3s.). In 1955 it seems, as the report states, "out of date in some respects . . . and is now due for revision". Nevertheless, this code of practice has been in print and outdated, while no British National Code has yet appeared since the demise of the British X-ray and Radium Commission. A report, therefore, by the International Labour Office, progressive as it is in this field, is worthy of study. It recommends the adoption of the general principles of protection laid down periodically by the International Commission on Radiation Protection. If it accepts its own recommendation, it will have to revise its Model Code drastically in a number of important respects—including incidentally Regulation 208.7, which states that photographic dark rooms should have some natural lighting. It reviews the effect of ionizing radiations on human beings (in parts this is a little naïve, indicating that the author was not a medical man); the uses of ionizing radiations; protective measures; problems arising in uranium mining and processing; and safety in transport of radioactive materials. It is at its best when it deals with the problems met with to-day in industry. It therefore behoves the industrialist about to use the newly available tools of radioactivity and ionizing radiation to study it. The industrial medical officer and the Ministry of Labour will note, no doubt, the recommendation of the International Labour Office that diseases due to ionizing radiations be included in the international list of occupational diseases to be notified to the labour inspectorate.

#### Veterinary Research in Britain

IN the committee stage of the Agricultural Research Bill, which received its third reading in the House of Commons on January 26, Mr. A. J. Champion, Captain J. A. L. Duncan and Mr. Leslie Hale pressed for more attention to veterinary research and to livestock farming as contrasted with crop husbandry. For the Government, the Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. C. R. H. Nugent, while maintaining the view previously expressed that a separate veterinary research council is undesirable and that veterinary research as well as general agricultural research appropriately come under the Agricultural Research Council, promised to take note of the comments made and particularly of the importance of developing preventive veterinary work in agriculture to-day. He pointed out that the Lord President's Committee would consist of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

#### The Houghton Poultry Research Station

THE Animal Health Trust founded its Poultry Research Station at Houghton, Huntingdonshire, some seven years ago, and under the leadership of Dr. R. F. Gordon the staff has done much useful work on behalf of the poultry industry. The Trust and the Agricultural Research Council have now