

In Samson Wright great intellectual brilliance was linked with a most lovable character. He was a formidable but always constructive critic, and he took a constant, unselfish interest in the welfare of his colleagues and staff. His great gift of exposition,

combined with humility and sincerity of purpose, made him a most stimulating and delightful companion. His challenging personality will be greatly missed. His wife died in 1950 and he leaves three daughters.
C. A. KEELE

NEWS and VIEWS

Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh : Dr. E. R. Weidlein

DR. EDWARD R. WEIDLEIN retired on March 31 from the presidency of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh, after more than forty years of active work at the Institute. Happily, his retirement will not sever his connexion with the Institute as he will remain on the Board of Trustees and will be available in an advisory capacity in the administration of the various research programmes. His successor as head of the research executive staff of the Institute has not yet been announced. Dr. Weidlein joined the Mellon Institute in 1912, becoming acting director during the First World War and then director in 1921. In 1951 he was appointed president of the Institute and, in addition, he was for four years chairman of the Board of Trustees, a post which he relinquished last year. The Mellon Institute, which is associated with the University of Pittsburgh, is an endowed, non-profit organization, conducting long-term investigations in chemical and physical technology, mainly by a system of industrial fellowships, and it is with this industrial fellowship scheme that Dr. Weidlein has been particularly concerned. However, he has also had many activities outside the Institute, and mention must be made of his work during the Second World War, as head technical consultant in the War Production Board, when he was largely instrumental in establishing the synthetic rubber industry in the United States. In Pittsburgh he is deeply interested in the health, well-being and community development of his home city and its surroundings and, in particular, in the control of industrial pollution. In 1938 the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry awarded Dr. Weidlein the Chemical Industry Medal, and in 1948 he received the Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society. He was president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers during 1927-29.

Imperial College of Science and Technology : Honorary Fellowships

HONORARY fellowship of the Imperial College of Science and Technology has been conferred on the following, all of whom have been connected with the College in various ways : Prof. William Brown, formerly professor of plant pathology ; Prof. Sydney Chapman, formerly professor of mathematics ; Mr. David Garnett, author, and a former student ; Dr. Willis Jackson, formerly professor of electrical engineering ; Prof. J. W. Munro, formerly professor of zoology and applied entomology ; Sir William Penney, director of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, a member of the Governing Body and a former student ; and Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, U.S.A., and a former student.

Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools

It was announced last November that seventeen firms had agreed to form an Industrial Fund to assist in the teaching of science in independent and direct-grant schools in Great Britain by the provision of capital grants towards the building, expansion, modernizing and equipping of science laboratories (see *Nature*, November 5, p. 860). It was originally intended to raise £1,500,000 ; but seventy-three more companies have since agreed to support the Fund, and the total now subscribed from all sources is £2,900,000. The committee for administering the Fund has appointed the following four assessors to act as technical advisers both to the committee and to the schools concerned : Sir Graham Savage, formerly senior chief inspector of the Ministry of Education and thereafter chief education officer of the London County Council ; Mr. D. B. Briggs, formerly one of H.M. inspectors of schools ; Mr. W. F. Bushell, formerly headmaster of Birkenhead School ; and Mr. A. G. McKimmie, formerly headmaster of Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, whose special province is schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

An architectural brochure of current good practice for the building and equipping of school science laboratories has been prepared, which includes a table of standards of space and cost judged appropriate for the various types of buildings and equipment. It has been decided that, in the main, grants will be restricted to the teaching of the fundamental sciences of physics, chemistry and mathematics, that grants will not exceed two-thirds of the cost of that part of the project which is admissible for consideration, and that priority will be given to schools having 250 or more pupils over the age of thirteen and having at least 10 per cent of them in the mathematics and science sixth forms (the forms after the Ordinary Level of the General Certificate of Education). 439 schools have applied for grants from the Fund, and some interesting statistics have been compiled from their applications. In boys' schools the proportion in the mathematics and science sixth forms is now 50 per cent of the total in sixth forms, and while the total number of pupils over the age of thirteen has increased by more than a third since before the Second World War, there are now two and a quarter times as many boys specializing in mathematics and science. As a result, the facilities for teaching science are overcrowded and inadequate. Unlike maintained schools in Britain, the chief problem for independent and direct-grant schools is not a lack of science teaching staff but one of money for capital projects, and it is for this that the Fund has been created. On the basis of the applications, it has been decided to try to raise a further £600,000 to bring the Fund to a total of £3,500,000, and an appeal will be made shortly for this extra money.