

he was the biological secretary and was vice-president in 1943 and during 1948–55. In both these capacities his exceptional gift of organization has proved invaluable. This, together with the great advantage he had to offer as an adviser, has made him an outstanding vice-chairman of the Agricultural Improvement Council since 1944, a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet during 1943–45, vice-president of the Royal Horticultural Society, honorary adviser to the Ministry of Labour, vice-chairman of the Committee on Colonial Agriculture and a member of the Agricultural Research Council. He is also a governor of several leading universities, agricultural and horticultural colleges and institutes. He was president of Section K (Botany) of the British Association in 1937.

All Sir Edward's earlier academic work was done in the University of London. This culminated in the Quain professorship of botany at University College from 1920 until he was appointed director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1943. To such a man of many parts, honours in the form of honorary degrees and medals, too numerous to mention, came naturally. It is to be hoped that in spite of his resignation from Kew, the great services of Sir Edward to scientific advancement, exposition and training, through at least some of the many organizations which he has so actively and vigorously supported, will be available for a long time to come.

#### Dr. George Taylor

DR. GEORGE TAYLOR, who succeeds Sir Edward Salisbury at Kew, is fifty-two years of age; he was born and educated in Scotland. From the George Herriot School, Edinburgh, he went to study at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated with first-class honours in botany, and afterwards joined the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) in the Botanical Department, of which he became keeper in 1950 upon the retirement of Dr. J. Ramsbottom. Dr. Taylor has published extensively in the field of Phanerogamic taxonomy; but among his special botanical interests may be mentioned the Himalayan poppies, of which a former director of Kew, Sir David Prain, made a special study. Dr. Taylor published a monograph of the genus *Meconopsis* in 1934. He has also paid considerable attention to aquatic phanerogams, especially the Podostemaceae, that remarkable family of plants living on rocks in rushing water and exhibiting a wealth of morphological and ecological problems. He has taken a prominent part in various botanical expeditions, notably to Rhodesia in 1927, to the mountains of tropical East Africa in 1934, and to Tibet and Bhutan in 1938. He is also a keen and able horticulturist, which was recognized by the award to him this year of the Victoria Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society. Apart from his work at the British Museum, Dr. Taylor has had considerable administrative experience as botanical secretary of the Linnean Society since 1950, and as one of the general secretaries of the British Association since 1951. Dr. Taylor thus brings to his new duties a record of successful pursuit of three aspects intimately associated with his fresh responsibilities.

#### British Museum (Natural History): Keeper of Botany

THE Principal Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Mr. James Edgar Dandy to succeed Dr.

George Taylor as keeper of botany. Mr. Dandy was educated at Preston Grammar School and Downing College, Cambridge. He started his botanical career in the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where he came under the stimulating influence of Dr. John Hutchinson. In 1927 he was appointed assistant keeper in the British Museum (Natural History) and was placed in charge of the Monocotyledons and Gymnosperms. He is a recognized world authority on Monocotyledons; but his interests have not been confined to that group. He is engaged on monographic studies of the Magnoliaceae and several groups of the aquatic Monocotyledons (including the genus *Potamogeton* in collaboration with Dr. George Taylor). He has almost completed a Flora of Antigua and Bermuda and is compiling a list of the plants of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Mr. Dandy has taken a prominent and decisive part in the legalistic realm of plant nomenclature, and is a member of a number of international committees dealing with this subject. So far, his published work has been confined to treatments of genera or families preliminary to more detailed monographic surveys; but, under his editorship, two very important works will shortly appear. These are the Catalogue of the Sloane Herbarium to be published by the Trustees of the British Museum, which contains the most extensive botanical collections of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and a Check List of the British Flora to be sponsored jointly by the British Museum and the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

#### Nature Conservancy : Dr. E. B. Worthington

DR. E. B. WORTHINGTON, who has recently completed his term of office as secretary-general of the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara, has been appointed as deputy director-general (scientific) of the Nature Conservancy and will take up his duties on September 17. After graduating in zoology from the University of Cambridge, Dr. Worthington was Balfour Student there during 1930–33 and took part in, or was leader of, two expeditions to the great African lakes, making a number of contributions to ichthyology and hydrobiology. At that time, in collaboration with his wife, he wrote a general book on African inland waters. In 1934, while demonstrator in zoology at Cambridge, he became a scientist on Lord Hailey's African Survey and, on its completion in 1937, was appointed the first director of the Freshwater Biological Association, Windermere. For two years at the end of the Second World War, Dr. Worthington was an adviser to the Middle East Supply Centre, conducting a survey of scientific work in the Middle East countries, and then in 1946 he joined what afterwards became the Research Branch of H.M. Overseas Service; he spent some years in East Africa preparing a development plan for Uganda and organizing inter-territorial scientific services. On the formation of the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara in 1950 he was appointed secretary-general, and has spent the past year in writing a book on the contribution of science to the development of Africa. Besides his many papers, Dr. Worthington, who is fifty-one years old, has written a number of books, mainly on African inland waters and fisheries. He thus brings to the Nature Conservancy a varied experience in biological research and in the application of science to the conservation and use of land and water.