

He took a serious operation in his stride in 1950. After he retired in 1952 he continued with a busy consulting practice in addition to his work with the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and the Institution of Mining Engineers, in each of which he had been president. During the Second World War he did much work for the Ministry of Mines, but was never too busy to find time to see an old student. Other bodies which he served included the Geological Survey

of Great Britain, the Coal Commission and the Natural Resources Commission. He was, until his death, the Crown mineral agent.

In addition, his consulting practice took him to many foreign countries and Dominions. We who worked under him learned to value his small human weaknesses not less than his qualities of leadership. He leaves a widow and two sons.

E. J. PRYOR

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Medals of the Royal Society

H.M. THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year as follows: Prof. W. V. D. Hodge, Lowndean professor of astronomy and geometry in the University of Cambridge, for his distinguished work on algebraic geometry; Prof. F. G. Gregory, professor of plant physiology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, for his distinguished studies in plant physiology.

The New Scientist

THE first anniversary issue of *The New Scientist* appeared on November 21. As H.R.H. Prince Philip says in a congratulatory letter, its birth could not have been more opportune. The accident at the Windscale factory, nuclear power and space travel have further stimulated the layman's interest in the activities and achievements of scientists. *The New Scientist*, as especially shown in its articles on the artificial Earth satellites, is admirably suited to satisfy their curiosity. It is one of the few realistic attempts to bridge the gulf between the scientists and non-scientists. Besides Prince Philip's letter, this issue, which marks the beginning of the journal's second year (vol. 3, No. 53), includes articles on "The Present Golden Age", by Sir Charles Darwin; "X-Ray Analysis", by Sir Lawrence Bragg; "Submarine Oil Tankers", by Nigel Calder; "Progress of Quick Freezing", by Dr. J. Hawthorn; and "Ragworms and Caviar", by Dr. R. P. Dales; there is also a Christmas book section. We offer *The New Scientist* our congratulations and best wishes, and feel sure that there will be many more anniversary issues.

500,000th Leitz Microscope: Dr. Paul A. Weiss

PROF. PAUL A. WEISS, head of the laboratory of developmental biology of the Rockefeller Institute, received the 500,000th microscope made by the firm of Ernst Leitz at a brief ceremony in his laboratory. The presentation of the microscope to Dr. Weiss is in the tradition of special recognition given by the Leitz organization to famous scientists for their fundamental contributions to the knowledge of living structures and their development and pathology. He is the first American to be so honoured. Robert Koch, discoverer of the tubercle bacillus, received the 100,000th Leitz microscope in 1907; Paul Ehrlich, pioneer in chemotherapy, the 150,000th in 1912; Martin Heidenhain, the histologist, the 200,000th in 1921; Ludwig Aschoff, the pathologist, the 300,000th in 1930; and Gerhard Domagk, Nobel

prizeman for his work for chemotherapy, the 400,000th in 1949. Dr. Weiss, whose biological researches have covered a wide field, is known for his work on the analysis of the development and growth of living structures.

Royal Aircraft Establishment Appointments:

Mr. R. W. Pye

MR. R. W. PYE has been promoted deputy chief scientific officer as head of the Trials Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Mr. Pye graduated in mathematics at Cambridge in 1933 and joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1936, when he worked on problems of airborne gunnery and the aerodynamics of winged torpedoes. During the War he was responsible in the London Headquarters for a range of armament research. At the beginning of 1947 he went to Australia in the team led by Lieut.-General Evetts to initiate the setting-up of the rocket range at Woomera. For the past eighteen months of his stay in Australia he was acting chief superintendent of the Long Range Weapons Establishment (now Weapons Research Establishment) at Salisbury and made important contributions to the planning and installation of the range facilities. Since his return to England in mid-1950, Mr. Pye has been intimately concerned with the extension of the guided weapon ranges in the United Kingdom and the introduction of new and advanced trials instrumentation techniques.

Mr. P. A. Hufton

MR. P. A. HUFTON has been appointed to the new post of head of the Bedford Divisions, Aerodynamics Department. In this post, which carries the rank of deputy chief scientific officer, he will take charge of the aerodynamic flight testing and wind tunnel testing at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford. Mr. Hufton took his M.Sc. at the University of Manchester in 1934 and then joined the staff of the Royal Aircraft Establishment where he worked throughout the period 1934-46 on various aerodynamic research problems, specializing in research on aircraft in flight. In 1946 he moved to the A. & A.E.E., Boscombe Down, as superintendent of performance and in 1953 returned to the Royal Aircraft Establishment to take charge of the Supersonic Division, Aerodynamics Department, a post which he has held until his present appointment. He rapidly became expert in the expanding field of hypersonic aerodynamics, and under his leadership a strong research team was built up. During this period he was promoted to deputy chief scientific officer and acted as head of the Aerodynamics Department throughout 1956 while Mr. L. F. Nicholson was at the Imperial Defence College.