

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Horticultural Chemistry at Bristol:

Prof. T. Wallace, C.B.E., F.R.S.

At the members' meeting at the Long Ashton Research Station on July 17, the chairman, Capt. D. M. Wills, announced the impending retirement of the director, Prof. Thomas Wallace, after thirty-eight years service. Appointed agricultural chemist in 1919, Prof. Wallace became deputy director in 1923 and, in 1943, was made director of the Station and professor of horticultural chemistry in the University of Bristol. The best known of Prof. Wallace's many contributions to horticultural science are his studies of the effects on plant growth of deficiencies and excesses of the mineral nutrient elements. Started in his early days at Long Ashton as sand culture experiments to determine the major nutrient requirements of fruit trees and bushes, these were later to embrace all the essential elements for both agricultural and horticultural crops. His contributions in this field are epitomized in "Diagnosis of Mineral Deficiencies in Plants by Visual Symptoms: a Colour Atlas and Guide", first published in 1943 and issued in an enlarged second edition in 1951. Prof. Wallace's position as an authority on trace-element nutrition of plants was recognized by the establishment, under his direction, of the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Plant Nutrition (Micro-Nutrients) at Long Ashton.

Most of his research work has been concerned with problems of immediate importance to growers, and his close links with the agricultural and horticultural industries have ensured the rapid translation of his findings into practice. The acceptance of his recommendations for overcoming marginal leaf scorch by potash manuring brought into production large areas of the west Midlands previously regarded as unsuitable for fruit-growing. Among other studies with practical application were those on lime-induced chlorosis, on the classification of fruit soils, and on the effects of manurial and cultural treatments on fruit quality. Under Prof. Wallace's directorship the staff at Long Ashton has been increased threefold, while the buildings and facilities have been constantly extended. His combination of administrative capability with knowledge of horticulture has led to heavy demands for his services on committees of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council, particularly during the post-war reorganization of the research and advisory services and in the establishment of the National Agricultural Advisory Service's experimental horticulture stations. These qualities were further recognized by his appointment in 1953 to membership of the Agricultural Improvement Council.

## History and Philosophy of Science at University College, London:

Prof. Douglas McKie

DR. DOUGLAS MCKIE, who has just been appointed to the chair of the history and philosophy of science at University College, London, of which he is a Fellow, has been associated with that College throughout his academic life. After a distinguished career as a student of chemistry, culminating in the award of the Ramsay Medal, he was attached to the Department, of which he now becomes the head, soon after its inception under the name of "History, Principles and Methods of Science" in 1924. From

that time until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 he was the only full-time member of the staff of the Department, the head of which was the late Prof. A. Wolf, who also occupied a part-time chair at the London School of Economics. McKie was thus intimately involved in the successive experimental stages through which the Department passed in its pioneer effort to establish a new and important subject as a regular university discipline. During the War, when the work of the Department was necessarily almost entirely suspended, he assisted in the teaching of chemistry, and on its resuscitation with a greatly increased staff in 1945, he became a reader and took a prominent part in reaping the fruits of his earlier labours. He now assumes the control of a stable and successful Department with the support of a unique experience. McKie's contributions to knowledge have been concerned chiefly with the history of chemistry and the early history of the Royal Society. He has given special attention to the work of Lavoisier, on whom he has written a standard treatise; and he is taking an active part in the publication of Lavoisier's correspondence and the identification and preservation of his apparatus.

## The Royal Society of Canada

THE seventy-fifth anniversary meeting of the Royal Society of Canada was held in Ottawa during June 10-12. A symposium on "Our Debt to the Future" occupied each afternoon, and the final address was given by His Excellency the Governor-General at dinner on the evening of June 12 (see p. 259 of this issue). Sections of the Society held meetings in the morning only. Section III (Mathematical, Chemical and Physical Sciences) held a symposium on "Symmetry", introduced by its president (Prof. H. S. M. Coxeter), who discussed crystal symmetry and its generalizations. Section IV (Geological Sciences) met under the presidency of Prof. H. C. Gunning and held a symposium on "Hydrology". Section V (Biological Sciences) was addressed by its president, W. H. Cook, on "Research in the Biosciences: a Mid-Century Perspective", and by Prof. T. W. M. Cameron on "Parasitology and the Arctic"; a post-humous paper by Prof. G. Lyman Duff on the "Etiology and Pathogenesis of Arteriosclerosis" was also presented.

Officers of the Society for the year 1957-58 were elected as follows: *President*, Prof. T. W. M. Cameron; *Vice-President*, Pierre Daviault; *Hon. Secretary*, C. P. Stacey; *Hon. Associate Secretary*, Guy Sylvestre; *Hon. Treasurer*, N. E. Gibbons; *Hon. Editor*, G. W. Brown; *Hon. Librarian*, W. K. Lamb. Officers of the scientific sections are as follows. Section III: *President*, Leo Marion; *Vice-President*, Prof. G. M. Shrum; *Secretary*, Prof. A. D. Misener. Section IV: *President*, H. C. Rickaby; *Vice-President*, L. S. Russell; *Secretary*, S. C. Robinson. Section V: *President*, Prof. W. R. Campbell; *Vice-President*, N. H. Grace; *Secretary*, J. Gibbard.

## Council for Overseas Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology

As announced in an answer on August 1 to a question in the House of Commons, the Council for Overseas Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology has been formed to replace the existing Advisory Committee on Colonial Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology. The Advisory Committee was set up