

concerned with the design and construction of the Dounreay fast breeder reactor. This is certainly one of the most difficult engineering projects undertaken by the Authority, and one which required day-to-day contact with the large development teams that have had to be brought together for this work. At an earlier period, he was made responsible for the engineering laboratory concerned with the development of components for the gaseous diffusion plant at Capenhurst, and perhaps this contributed to an understanding of the outlook of scientists and to the profitable atmosphere of mutual respect between scientists and engineers working on the Dounreay project.

The fact that Kendall's contribution to the development of atomic energy was not better known was in the main due to personal idiosyncrasies. He joined Sir Christopher Hinton and Sir Leonard Owen in the early days at Risley, after serving with them

in the Ministry of Supply through the war-time years. This long association may explain to some extent the success he had in branches of engineering where solid academic backing is usually regarded as advantageous. He had no academic qualifications, and no diplomas or membership of professional institutions—indeed, he positively avoided the possibility. He would not have welcomed public honours or awards no matter where they came from, and if he could avoid signing a written document he would do so; but these strange characteristics did not reduce the regard, and often affection, in which he was held by those who knew him.

In his family life similarly he liked to pretend to be an almost Victorian master in his own house; but this only concealed to a degree how fortunate he had been in his choice of a wife. All our sympathies will be extended to her and his daughter.

L. ROTHERHAM

NEWS and VIEWS

Long Ashton Research Station, Bristol :

Dr. H. G. H. Kearns, O.B.E.

DR. H. G. H. KEARNS, who succeeds Prof. T. Wallace as director at Long Ashton (see *Nature*, 180, 267; 1957), received his scientific training at Wye College and the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge. After a period of service in the Zoology Department of the University of Bristol, he was appointed to the staff of the Long Ashton Station in 1931 as an adviser in entomology, but later transferred to the post of research entomologist, which he still occupies. From his appointment until the outbreak of war in 1939 his researches were mainly concerned with the biology of pests of horticultural crops, including fruit and market garden and glasshouse crops, and of basket willows. In his work on fruit crops he made outstanding contributions on the control of serious pests of fruits, notably on capsid bugs, apple and plum sawfly, codling moth and raspberry and strawberry pests, and did valuable work on the formulation of sprays, particularly those containing tar and petroleum oils. His investigations played an important part in the development of comprehensive spray programmes for fruit crops, particularly those suitable for the West Midlands fruit areas.

From 1939 onwards he has specialized on the development of spraying machinery and equipment, and during the War he played an important part in designing and developing machines for county agricultural executive committees to carry out contract spraying in orchards. Largely as the result of his efforts, the committees were able to spray 20,000 acres of orchards annually throughout the war period. After the War he turned his attention to problems of automatic spraying machines and equipment, and he designed and built a number of machines for use both in Britain and in the Colonial Territories. Parallel with these investigations, Dr. Kearns has carried out intensive studies of the physical properties of spray fluids and dusts, which have done much to improve the efficiency and economic usage of these materials. During recent years, in conjunction with the Colonial Office, he has worked on the control of pests and diseases of a number of crops in Jamaica and East Africa, including

banana, coconut, coffee and cotton, and one of his machines has also been adopted for ground spraying in locust control campaigns. The outstanding services of Dr. Kearns to entomology and agriculture were recognized by the University of Bristol by his appointment to a readership in entomology in 1950, and by the Government by the award of the O.B.E. in 1954. His appointment as director should ensure the continued development of the work of the Station in accordance with the pattern and high standards set by his predecessors.

Human Physiology and Pharmacology at Adelaide :

Prof. R. F. Whelan

DR. R. F. WHELAN, who has been appointed at the age of thirty-four to the chair of human physiology and pharmacology in the University of Adelaide, graduated in medicine in The Queen's University of Belfast in 1946. During 1948-51 he was an assistant lecturer in physiology at The Queen's University, and after working for a year with Prof. Henry Barcroft as a research fellow in the Sherrington School of Physiology, he returned in 1952 to the lectureship he now holds at Belfast. His research interests are mainly in the physiology and pharmacology of the human peripheral circulation. At various times he has collaborated with Prof. A. D. M. Greenfield, Dr. J. T. Shepherd, Dr. I. C. Roddie and others in investigating the effects of cold, adrenaline, nor-adrenaline, intra-arterial injections of gases and the action of the sympathetic nervous system on the blood vessels of the limbs. He has made a special study of the action of histamine, and has developed the use of antihistamines as a tool for investigating the role of histamine in human vascular reactions. At present he is investigating the effects of 5-hydroxy-tryptamine and its antagonists. He is the author of more than forty papers and holds the degrees of M.D. with high commendation and Ph.D. Dr. Whelan has played an important part in developing the scheme whereby students reading for the honours B.Sc. in physiology at The Queen's University are required to undertake a research project and prepare a paper for publication. He has made short visits to Canada and to several countries in Europe, and will