

and western China were considerable and he made many notable introductions to beautify our gardens. In fact he had done enough in these two fields to have made a name for himself and, indeed, he received many honours from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Horticultural Society. He was, however, no mean botanist, plant geographer and plant ecologist, and he wrote much and well on these subjects.

All his expeditions, except the last four, were one-man efforts, and the amount of work he accomplished was outstanding. His specimens were beautifully collected and the notes on them copious. His photography was of a very high standard, and, of course, he was an expert seed-collector.

On his last four expeditions he was accompanied by his wife Jean (*née* Macklin), to whose devotion and care he himself freely admitted the success of these ventures was due. She has the sympathy of all who knew Frank Kingdon-Ward and of the many who know him only through his books and through the objects of beauty, his own introductions, which adorn our gardens.

N. L. BOR

#### Mr. S. B. Smith

MR. S. B. SMITH, who died recently at the age of sixty-six, was associated with some of the earliest engineering developments of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. during forty-four years service until his retirement in 1956. He is probably best known for his investigations into the technique of radio direction-finding, which he started during the First World War and continued in the Company's Research Department which he joined in 1919. He studied the

effects of wave polarization on closed-loop aerial systems, and took a leading part in the commercial design and development of the Adcock direction-finder, particularly for use at high radio-frequencies and at long ranges. This resulted in spectacular advances in direction- and position-finding; and the system of greatly improved accuracy found extensive application before and during the Second World War.

Mr. Smith also participated in the development of photo-telegraphy (facsimile transmission); and made a major contribution to the design of the early automatic high-speed commercial services from Chelmsford to European capitals, being largely responsible for the development of the first of such equipments installed by Marconi's in Geneva for the League of Nations.

During the Second World War he was engaged on highly specialized work for the Admiralty and, until he retired in 1956, was consulted by the Armed Services as a leading authority on wave propagation and high-frequency direction-finding. At the time of his retirement he was chief of the Patents Department of Marconi's.

Mr. Smith was for many years a valued member of the Direction-Finding Committee of the Radio Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He also took an active part in the work of many international committees and conferences convened to discuss the organization of world radio communications. He will be remembered by his contemporaries for his sound judgment in the support of new ideas, and with affection by the many to whom, as young engineers, he extended encouragement and assistance.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### National Institute for Research in Dairying:

Prof. H. D. KAY, C.B.E., F.R.S.

PROF. H. D. KAY, who is to retire in September from the directorship of the National Institute for Research in Dairying, was born in Heaton Chapel, attended the Manchester Grammar School and then the University of Manchester. After military service in the First World War, during which he was awarded the O.B.E. (Military Division), he worked with H. S. Raper in the University of Leeds and then as Beit Memorial Fellow with Harden at the Lister Institute and with Knoop in Freiburg, moving from there to Hopkins's laboratory in Cambridge, where he gained his Ph.D. From a post in the London Hospital, which he held for four years, obtaining in the meantime the degree of D.Sc. from the University of Manchester, he was called to Toronto to a chair of biochemistry. In 1932 he was invited to succeed the late Dr. Stenhouse Williams, first director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying, a post he has held for twenty-six years together with that of research professor in biochemistry in the University of Reading. Under his directorship the scope and size of the Institute have increased markedly, from some twenty research workers in four departments in 1932 to more than five times that number in nine departments and two independent sections at present. His interest in phosphorus compounds, begun in the London Hospital, culminated in the discovery of the phosphatase test

for the efficiency of milk pasteurization, which has gained world-wide application. Elected to the Royal Society in 1945, Prof. Kay was made C.B.E. in 1946. To the exacting work of directing a large institute he has added service on many government scientific committees and advisory work for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Hard physical exercise has been his escape from sedentary duties and, a keen gardener, he has for many years been president of the Reading Horticultural Association. A good athlete in his younger days and an intrepid walker at all times, Prof. Kay retires at a youthful sixty-five to take up a special assignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization. He takes with him the wishes of numerous friends for a happy, energetic and industrious retirement.

### Royal Agricultural Society of England: Award of Research Medal

THE Research Medal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England has been awarded to Dr. W. A. Sexton and Mr. W. G. Templeman.

Dr. W. A. Sexton was co-discoverer, with Mr. W. G. Templeman, in 1940 of hormone and carbamate weed-killers. In 1935 Dr. Sexton joined a section of the Research Department of the Dyestuffs Department, Imperial Chemical Industries, at Brackley, working on the synthesis of products for the control