

Dr. J. Pemberton

DR. JOHN PEMBERTON, reader in social and industrial medicine in the University of Sheffield, has been appointed to succeed Prof. Stevenson. After working with Sir John (now Lord) Boyd Orr at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, in charge of a mobile nutritional research team, he went to Sheffield in 1940 as medical first assistant at the Royal Hospital, becoming medical tutor in 1941. During this time he maintained his interest in nutritional matters, working with Prof. H. A. Krebs on the extremely important experiments on deficiency of vitamin C in human volunteers. In 1946 he was appointed senior lecturer in medicine (social aspects) and student health officer in the University. In the next few years he carried out some extremely valuable studies on illness in general practice and socio-medical studies of hospital in-patients. In 1949 Dr. Pemberton joined the newly formed Department of Social and Industrial Medicine at Sheffield as senior lecturer, becoming reader in 1957. He has maintained contact with the hospital by accepting appointments as honorary consultant physician to the City General Hospital, where he has beds, and to the United Sheffield Hospitals, where he ran an out-patient clinic. He has played a most important part in developing the teaching and research programme of the Department, being particularly concerned with the running of the social medicine clerkship, and with the organization of case demonstrations and colloquia. With Prof. W. Hobson and Dr. H. Droller he helped to organize a medical survey of old people in their homes in Sheffield. In 1955 the results of this work were published in a book, "The Health of the Elderly at Home", of which he was joint author, and he was awarded jointly a prize of £100 for original work in geriatrics by the Ciba Foundation.

During 1953 Dr. Pemberton visited the United States to study teaching methods in American medical schools, and in 1954 spent a year at Harvard School of Public Health, working on the epidemiology of chronic bronchitis. His work in the United States resulted in his founding, with Dr. Harold Willard, the International Corresponding Club, of which he is the co-secretary. The Bulletin issued by the Club has been an outstanding success in making known to workers all over the world the developments in teaching and research which are going on in social medicine. In September 1957 he organized an International Study Group in Holland, financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1957 a Medical Research Council group for epidemiological research on air pollution was formed in Sheffield, with Dr. Pemberton as director. His recent published work has been concerned with geriatrics, air pollution and respiratory disease.

National Physical Laboratory :

Dr. E. Lee

DR. EDWARD LEE, who is at present director of operational research in the Royal Naval Scientific Service, has recently been appointed to the new post of deputy director of the National Physical Laboratory. The deputy director will assume the main responsibility for work in the National Physical Laboratory which is closely geared to immediate demands from industry. Dr. Edward Lee was educated at Consett Grammar School and graduated at the University of Manchester with first-class honours in physics. After taking an M.Sc. degree at Manchester and a Ph.D. at Cambridge, he joined

the Royal Naval Scientific Service in 1939 and was posted to the Admiralty Research Laboratory. In 1946, Dr. Lee joined the Defence Research Policy Staff at the Ministry of Defence and from then until 1951 his work was mainly concerned with relating Service research programmes to the scientific effort available and Service requirements. He has been director of operational research at the Admiralty for the past three years.

Reorganization of the National Physical Laboratory

DURING 1957, a comprehensive review of the organization and programmes of work of the National Physical Laboratory was carried out by a committee of the Research Council of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. As a result, certain changes in organization will be introduced about the end of March. One of the most important is a reorganization of the work at present carried out in the Divisions of Electricity, Metrology and Physics and in the Test House. These four units will be replaced by three new Divisions to be called Standards, Applied Physics and Basic Physics.

The Standards Division will be responsible for all fundamental work on standards of length, mass and time; of electrical and magnetic quantities and also of temperature. Basically, it will consist of the present Metrology Division, expanded to include certain work on standards now carried out in the Electricity and Physics Divisions. The superintendent will be Dr. H. Barrell, at present in charge of the Metrology Division. The Applied Physics Division will be responsible in general for work in the field of classical physics of fairly immediate value to industry (excluding optics, which will continue in the Light Division). The principal areas covered will be electrotechnics, acoustics, heat and radiology. Test House, which has hitherto come under Administration, will become an integral part of this Division, but will preserve its identity under Mr. H. Bowley. The superintendent of the Applied Physics Division will be Dr. B. Wheeler Robinson, at present in charge of the Physics Division. The Basic Physics Division will be responsible for pioneering developments in certain branches of non-nuclear physics which have potential industrial applications in the less immediate future. The post of superintendent of this Division is at present vacant.

Expansion of Universities in Britain

A PROVISIONAL building programme for university expansion, totalling £60 million during 1960-63, and including the foundation of a University College of Sussex, has been authorized by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Announcing this in the House of Commons on February 20, Mr. Heathcoat Amory said that the programme would be subject to review if the economic situation changes substantially. The increase contemplated in the current rate of building is necessary if Britain is to secure the full benefits of future advances in science and technology, and it should be possible to achieve an increase from 106,000 to about 124,000 students by the mid-1960's, with a possible temporary rise of 10 per cent in the second half of the decade, an increase which may well prove to be permanent. Nearly two-thirds of the expansion will be devoted to faculties of science and technology of the existing universities and colleges of technology, which will enable the figure recommended by the Committee for Scientific Man-power to be reached and the number of scientists and engineers to be