

NEWS and VIEWS

Animal Physiology at Cambridge :

Dr. Ivan de Burgh Daly, F.R.S.

IVAN DE BURGH DALY, who is retiring from directorship of the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology, Babraham, studied medicine in Cambridge and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and qualified as a physician in 1918 after serving in the R.N.A.S. He worked as a Beit Memorial Research Fellow at University College, London. He was professor of physiology in Birmingham (1927-32) and Edinburgh (1933-47), before going to Babraham as the first director of the Agricultural Research Council's Institute of Animal Physiology in 1948. In Starling's department he became interested in the physiology of the circulation and his skill as an engineer enabled him to construct elaborate apparatus for perfusing blood through isolated organs from dogs and recording the effects of drugs and of nervous stimulation on the distribution of blood and the resistance to flow. He is especially interested in the complex circulation in the lungs and is the leading authority on this subject.

During the past ten years he has been mainly responsible for the formation of the Institute at Babraham, with a distinguished staff of more than thirty scientists and ideal facilities for work on the physiology of larger animals than those normally studied in the physiological departments of medical schools. Under his leadership the Institute has grown rapidly and continues to grow. Scientists with wide experience in physiology, biochemistry and pathology have joined forces and are doing fundamental work on sheep, cows and pigs. His wisdom in resisting demands for the quick solution of problems of immediate practical importance is becoming more apparent as time goes by.

Prof. J. H. Gaddum, F.R.S.

JOHN HENRY GADDUM, who is to succeed Dr. I. de B. Daly as director of the Institute of Animal Physiology, qualified in medicine at Cambridge and University College Hospital. In 1925 he went to the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories at Beckenham, where he worked with the late Dr. J. W. Trevan, and left in 1927 to join Sir Henry Dale at the Medical Research Council Laboratories. At Hampstead he worked on the liberation of acetylcholine-like substances and established in collaboration with W. Feldberg that the nerve impulse in the superior cervical ganglion is transmitted by acetylcholine. He also developed methods for the bioassay of thyroid hormone and became interested in the interpretation of quantal bioassays; this was a matter of some difficulty as the log dose-percentage mortality curve was sigmoid in shape. He introduced the idea of plotting the normal equivalent deviation against the logarithm of the dose used, thus obtaining a straight line. To avoid the use of a negative quantity it was later suggested that the normal equivalent deviation + 5 should be called the 'probit' and this probit figure should be plotted against the log dose. Gaddum's pioneer work in this subject was published in a Medical Research Council report in 1933. After occupying chairs at Cairo and University College, London, in 1942 he was appointed to the chair of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh in succession to the late Prof. A. J. Clark,

where he has added great distinction to the Department during the past sixteen years.

Gaddum has been interested in a wide field of pharmacological experiment, particularly in respect of the pharmacologically active substances obtained from tissue extracts. He has done a great deal to elucidate the substances liberated when autonomic nerves are stimulated. This work started with acetylcholine and noradrenaline, and he has continued it with 5-hydroxytryptamine and substance *P*. He has been interested in the antagonism of 5-hydroxytryptamine by lysergic acid diethylamide, and recently he has edited a monograph on polypeptides which stimulate plain muscle. He has been responsible for the statistical analysis of many bioassay procedures, and has written the appendix to "The British Pharmacopoeia" on the mathematical basis of bioassay; he has also written a very popular text-book of pharmacology, now in its fourth edition. He has been a member of the Committee of the Medical Research Council from 1948-51 and a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1945. His appointment as director of the Agricultural Research Council's laboratories at Cambridge will give a great stimulus to the study of pharmacology in connexion with agricultural problems.

Materia Medica at Edinburgh : Dr. W. L. M. Perry

THE appointment is announced of Dr. W. L. M. Perry to the chair of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh in succession to Prof. J. H. Gaddum, who is leaving Edinburgh to become director of the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham. Dr. Perry, who graduated in medicine at St. Andrews in 1943, joined the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council at the National Institute for Medical Research in 1947, having completed a tour of duty in the Colonial Medical Service in West Africa. In his first research, Dr. Perry collaborated with Dr. F. Hawking in work which revealed the indirect mode of chemotherapeutic action of proguanil. Thereafter, he turned to subjects on the borderline between physiology and pharmacology, publishing a number of papers on transmission in the autonomic nervous system, and at the same time developing an interest in the principles and technique of biological assay, to which subject he made notable contributions. In 1951, Dr. Perry was appointed director of the Division of Biological Standards at the National Institute for Medical Research; in this position he has carried with apparent ease a burden of work and responsibility which, especially during the past two years, has been unexpectedly heavy because of the involvement of the Division in the safety testing of poliomyelitis vaccine. Dr. Perry thus goes to Edinburgh having behind him an unusual breadth of scientific and administrative experience; with the return to laboratory research that his new post will permit, it can be confidently anticipated that he will not only uphold but also add to the distinguished traditions of the chair of materia medica in Edinburgh.

Viking Fund Medals for 1957

THE 1957 Viking Fund Medals and prizes of 1,000 dollars each for outstanding contributions to anthropology have been awarded to Drs. Raymond A. Dart, James B. Griffin and Margaret Mead. Dr. Dart was elected by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists as medallist in physical anthropology. He is dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University