

NEWS and VIEWS

Anti-Locust Research Centre :

Dr. B. P. Uvarov, C.M.G., F.R.S.

DR. BORIS PETROVITCH UVAROV, who recently retired from the directorship of the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London, was born in Uralsk in 1888. At the end of the First World War he was a lecturer in zoology and entomology at the Georgian State University, Tiflis. He had already had a distinguished career in Russian entomology following his graduation at the University of St. Petersburg. It was while working as director of the Stavropol Bureau of Entomology on the control of locusts in 1912 that he recognized the conspecificity of two 'species' of locusts as the solitary and swarming phases of *Locusta migratoria*, a discovery which was to revolutionize work in this field.

Uvarov was also keenly interested in Acridid taxonomy, so that he was able to accept the invitation extended to him in 1920 by Dr. G. A. K. Marshall, director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, to work in London. As assistant entomologist and later as senior entomologist he worked at that Institute on the identification of Orthoptera and Hemiptera at the British Museum (Natural History). During this time he published numerous important papers on the taxonomy and biogeography of the Acrididae which brought him much acclaim and he rapidly became the world authority on this family. But Uvarov was more than a taxonomist, and such works as "Locusts and Grasshoppers" (1928), "Insect Nutrition and Metabolism" (1928) and "Insects and Climate" (1931) placed him in the forefront of entomological workers.

Meanwhile, the control of locusts was becoming more and more important and he began to devote most of his time to studying this problem. Towards the end of the Second World War the danger of famine in the Middle East and in East Africa became acute, owing to the desperate shortage of shipping. When, therefore, the Colonial Office set up the Anti-Locust Research Centre in 1945, Uvarov was appointed director. Under his inspired leadership and as a result of very hard work involving extensive travel, the Centre grew from strength to strength and is now generally recognized as the most important institute of its kind in the world. Its great reputation and international influence may safely be attributed to Dr. B. P. Uvarov. He was appointed C.M.G. in 1943, became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1950 and is now president of the Royal Entomological Society, London. He holds various foreign decorations, including the Chevalier, Légion d'Honneur and Commandeur de l'Ordre Royal de Lion of Belgium.

Dr. T. H. C. Taylor

T. H. C. TAYLOR, who has been appointed to succeed Dr. Uvarov as director of the Anti-Locust Research Centre, graduated at Reading University College. In 1925 he went out to Fiji as government entomologist to assist Dr. J. D. Tothill in his investigation of the problem of the coconut moth (*Levuana iridescens*), which had been causing extensive damage to the coconut plantations. He travelled widely in Melanesia and Indonesia in search of parasites, and

as a result of this work the moth was brought completely under control. The results were published by Tothill, Taylor and Paine in 1930 in a massive report on this classic example of successful biological control. In 1935 he was transferred to Uganda, where he specialized on cotton pests. In 1944 he joined the staff of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, becoming assistant director in succession to Dr. W. J. Hall, who had been promoted to director. In 1953 Dr. Taylor joined the Anti-Locust Research Centre as deputy director. Since then he has made many tours of inspection of locust stations in Arabia and Africa.

National Agricultural Advisory Service

SIR ROBERT RAE, director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, who is to retire on July 31, was formerly professor of agriculture in the University of Reading (see *Nature*, 153, 400; 1944). In 1944 he was appointed British agricultural attaché in Washington and agricultural adviser to the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Ottawa. In 1945 he became provincial advisory officer in the National Agricultural Advisory Service, and was promoted to under-secretary in 1947. He was appointed director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service in 1948.

Sir Robert Rae is to be succeeded as director by Mr. J. A. McMillan, at present senior education and advisory officer. After being wounded in the First World War, Mr. McMillan graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1919. He afterwards became lecturer in agriculture in the University of Leeds, and agricultural organizer to the Lincoln (Lindsey) and Cambridgeshire County Councils. He was seconded during the Second World War to the Cambridgeshire War Agricultural Executive Committee. On appointment to the National Agricultural Advisory Service in 1946 he became provincial director, Eastern Province. He was promoted to senior education and advisory officer in 1948.

Mr. W. E. Jones, at present director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service in Wales, who will succeed Mr. McMillan, graduated with honours in agriculture at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. In 1946 he was appointed to the National Agricultural Advisory Service as a grass-land husbandry advisory officer, and in 1950 became county advisory officer. He was appointed deputy director for Wales in 1954, and in 1957 he became director of the Service in Wales.

Mr. H. E. Evans, at present deputy director of National Agricultural Advisory Service in Wales, who is to succeed Mr. Jones, graduated with honours in agriculture at the University College of North Wales in 1934. He then spent six years with the Agricultural Economics Department at Aberystwyth. He was associated with the War Agricultural Executive Committees in England from 1940 until he joined the National Agricultural Advisory Service when it was formed in October 1946. Since then Mr. Evans has had continuous experience of farming in Wales, having served as county advisory officer in both Radnor and Carmarthen and more recently as deputy director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service for Wales.