NEWS and VIEWS

International Meteorological Organization Prize, 1959 : Prof. J. Bjerknes

THE Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization has this year awarded the annual prize, provided by funds left by the International Meteorological Organization on the formation of the World Meteorological Organization, to the eminent Norwegian meteorologist, Prof. J. Bjerknes, who is now professor of meteorology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prof. Bjerknes is known to meteorologists everywhere for his work, in conjunction with his father, the late V. F. K. Bjerknes, T. Bergeron and H. Solberg, in the initiation forty years ago at Bergen of the technique of frontal and air-mass analysis in weather forecasting. With the same meteorologists as those noted above, he collaborated in the writing of a major text-book on dynamical meteorology, "Physikalische Hydrodynamik", published in 1933. Before the War he carried out much research into the structure of depressions, as revealed by the release of a large number of sounding balloons at frequent intervals from one place for a number of hours, and with the dynamics of convection in the atmosphere. Since the War he has been particularly concerned with research into the general circulation of the atmosphere. He was professor of meteorology at the Geophysical Institute in Bergen from 1919 until 1931 and went to Los Angeles in 1940. In international scientific work he has been both secretary and president of the Association of Meteorology of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. British meteorologists, to whom he is well known as an honorary Fellow (1932) and Symons Gold Medallist (1940) of the Royal Meteorological Society, welcome this award to one of their most distinguished, genial and unassuming colleagues.

Chemistry in Relation to Medicine at Edinburgh : Prof. G. F. Marrian, F.R.S.

PROF. G. F. MARRIAN, who is to retire from the chair of chemistry in relation to medicine in the University of Edinburgh, moved from Toronto to Edinburgh in 1938 to succeed Prof. George Barger. He had already established his reputation by the isolation of pregnanediol in 1929, œstriol in 1930 and œstriol glucuronide in 1936. He gathered a group of workers and proceeded to isolate a considerable number of new products of steroid metabolism, notably 16α-hydroxyœstrone, and more recently he has also worked on the metabolism of adrenal cortical hormones. He developed new methods of estimation of steroids of clinical importance for diagnostic purposes. On his advice, the Medical Research Council set up a Clinical Endocrinological Research Unit at Edinburgh and he took a considerable part in its management and direction. Latterly he served on the Agricultural Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Advisory Committee for Medical Research in Scotland.

With the institution of a six-year curriculum at Edinburgh in 1949, Marrian took over the teaching of biochemistry to medical students. For them his lectures provided an exceptionally clear and illuminating introduction to the subject. After a few years, the teaching of chemistry to medical students, which was previously the Department's main teaching duty, was handed over to the Department of Chemistry, so enabling the Department of Biochemistry to undertake the teaching of biochemistry to dental and to veterinary students and to strengthen the science courses in biochemistry, which now include a flourishing honours year.

Prof. R. B. Fisher

DR. R. B. FISHER, who is to succeed Prof. Marrian at Edinburgh, took the Final Honour School of Animal Physiology in the University of Oxford in 1929, became a departmental demonstrator immediately and a University demonstrator in due course. For more than twenty-five years he was one of the most sought-after teachers of biochemistry in Oxford. Undergraduates reading medicine learned from him a critical approach to the literature and an eye for nonsense which left a permanent stamp upon them. Colleagues in many biological departments made a habit of asking for his criticism and advice on their papers, on their design and statistics. He did the same useful service officially as an editor both on the *Journal of Physiology* and the *Biochemical Journal*. He was away from Oxford for some years during the Second World War, directing an Air Ministry Group concerned with the design and analysis of strategic bombing. He belongs to the select race of chemical physiologists, and prefers to work on unquestionably living cells. He has demonstrated creatine synthesis in the surviving heart, and is using the perfused heart for work on the effects of insulin on permeability. He devised a method of studying absorption in surviving small intestine and has written a book on "Protein Metabolism", which is widely known as a critical appraisal of accepted views.

Fisheries Research : Dr. H. A. Cole

DR. H. A. COLE, who took up his duties as director of fisheries research on May 1, in succession to Mr. R. S. Wimpenny (see *Nature*, 181, 159 ; 1958), joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as an assistant naturalist in 1933 when he was appointed to the Laboratory at Conway. During the period up to the war he was largely concerned with an examination of the development and setting behaviour of oysters in tanks and of the incidence of parasites. In the war he was seconded to the Yorkshire (West Riding) War Agricultural Executive Committee, serving as a deputy chief executive officer. When he returned to the Conway laboratory in 1946 he resumed and extended his interests in oyster culture in a manner which rapidly made him an outstanding authority in his field. Plans for the rehabilitation of oyster beds which arose from this work resulted in the establishment in 1953 of a new fishery laboratory at Burnham-on-Crouch largely devoted to this purpose. Dr. Cole succeeded the late Mr. R. E. Savage at this juncture as head of the Shellfish Section, with his headquarters at the new laboratory. From here he and his staff produced much valuable advice on the cleansing and rearing of shellfish and initiated a considerable amount of