

Miss Grace M. Sickles

GRACE M. SICKLES, associate research scientist in the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health, died on June 29 at Troy, New York. An eminent bacteriologist and virologist, Miss Sickles had been a member of the Health Department since 1918, with a two-year period of service (1919-20) in the Communicable Disease Laboratories of the United States Army. She was a graduate of the New York State College for Teachers and a member of the principal scientific societies in her fields of research.

Miss Sickles was associated with Dr. Augustus B. Wadsworth in an extensive series of investigations on the production and standardization of anti-pneumococcus, antimeningococcus and antistreptococcus sera, studying, as early as 1938, the action of immune serum in conjunction with chemotherapy in experimental streptococcus infections. Some of Miss Sickles's studies of diphtheria toxin and on the antibiotic activity of micro-organisms from the soil were carried out at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Miss Sickles was the discoverer with Dr. Gilbert Dalldorf in 1947 of the coxsackie virus. The virus was identified during a study of outbreaks of poliomyelitis in New York State. It was named after the

village in which the first two recognized human infections occurred. The coxsackie group now includes more than a dozen viruses which are common sources of infection in man.

Mr. W. E. Perry

THE sudden death on June 5 of Mr. W. E. Perry, a senior principal scientific officer at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, removes one of the leading figures in the field of radioactive and radiation standardization. Born in 1903, Perry took his degree from Nottingham and joined the Laboratory in 1928. He was responsible for re-measurement of the National Radium Standards in 1934, and for the subsequent development of radioisotope measurements. Later, as head of the Radiology Section at the Laboratory, he had charge of the work on radioisotopes, X-ray dosimetry, neutron standardization and radiocarbon dating; and had an international reputation for his scientific integrity and wide knowledge in these subjects. At the time of his death, he was preparing material for the ninth International Congress on Radiology at Munich, in his capacity as chairman of Committee I of the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements.

NEWS and VIEWS

The British Association :

New President

SIR GEORGE THOMSON, master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, has been elected president for 1960 of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in succession to Sir James Gray. Sir George has had a distinguished career as a physicist, as a man who gave outstanding service to the Atomic Energy Project in its early days and as master of Corpus Christi College. The son of the late Sir J. J. Thomson, he was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, obtaining a first-class degree both in the Mathematical and in the Natural Sciences Tripos. After service in France with the Army, followed by research on aeronautical problems, he was appointed to the chair of physics at Aberdeen in 1922, where he carried out the epoch-making work on the defraction of electron beams by thin metal foils, thereby establishing beyond doubt the wave nature of the electron. For this work he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1937. Between 1930 and 1952 he was professor of physics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and was chairman of the first British Committee on Atomic Energy, the Maud Committee, appointed in 1940. He has played a considerable part in the development of the subject ever since, being interested not less in its social as well as in its scientific aspects. Since his appointment to the mastership of Corpus Christi College, his interest in physics has continued and he has published work on gas discharges and has been chairman of Section A (Mathematics and Physics) of the British Association. Both on account of the great distinction of his scientific work and his interest in the wider implications of scientific advance he will be a most welcome president of the British Association.

Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment :

Prof. M. J. Lighthill, F.R.S.

PROF. M. J. LIGHTHILL, Beyer professor of applied mathematics at the University of Manchester since 1950, has been appointed director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in succession to Sir George Gardner, who is succeeding Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude Pelly as controller of aircraft at the Ministry of Supply in October.

Prof. Lighthill has made outstanding contributions in many fields of fluid dynamics as well as in more general spheres of pure and applied mathematics. His applications of the fundamentals of mathematics to various aeronautical problems have been significant and widespread. He is particularly well known for his theoretical work on jet noise; this work, which has been largely substantiated by experiment, relates the noise to the turbulence in the jet. He has always displayed a continuing interest in the practical application of his theories, and has been for a number of years a member of the Aeronautical Research Council. Prof. Lighthill was educated at Winchester and Cambridge, and was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1953 at the early age of twenty-nine.

Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow :

Sir David Anderson

SIR DAVID ANDERSON, who is to retire from the post of director of the Royal College of Science and Technology in December 1959, was appointed principal of Derby Technical College in 1926 at the age of 31. In 1930, he became principal of the Central Technical College, Birmingham, and in a period of 16 years which spanned the arduous war years, he laid the foundations of the College of