

In 1911 he was appointed professor of experimental pathology in the Imperial Military Medical Academy and remained there until the Revolution. His disagreement with the policy of the newly formed Soviet Government made it necessary for him to leave St. Petersburg and he escaped to south Russia, where he served as a doctor with the White Army for about a year. After the defeat of the White Army he made his way to England and in due course became naturalized.

During 1929-45 he was a member of the staff of the Lister Institute. Afterwards he established the Oxford Gerontological Research Unit, with the support of funds provided by Lord Nuffield, and remained there until his retirement in 1952.

The bulk of Korenchevsky's work between the Wars was primarily endocrinological and was concerned with studies of the effect of sex and thyroid hormones, separately and in combination, not only on the reproductive organs but also on the other organ systems of animals of different ages. His work was characterized by a very close attention to detail, the use of first-class histological techniques and insistence on the need for healthy experimental material. Korenchevsky regarded this work as a necessary preliminary to provide a rational basis for use of hormones in mitigating some of the degenerations which occur with ageing.

Dr. Korenchevsky will be especially remembered, however, for his pioneer achievements in stimulating interest in the field of gerontological studies. His own concern with the problems of ageing went back to the early years of the century when he visited Russian infirmaries for old people, and during his stay with Metchnikoff in Paris he worked on the

effects of gastro-intestinal auto-intoxication. He always remained convinced of the value of Metchnikoff's theory, and he reaffirmed his belief in the importance of auto-intoxication as an ageing factor in several recent publications.

By the late 1930's he felt that the change in the climate of opinion, for which he had been waiting, had come and that vigorous efforts to emphasize the need for gerontological research might at last be effective. He therefore set out with the intention of developing an International Association of Gerontologists which would be responsible for investigations in all branches of the subject. His efforts were just beginning to bear fruit when the outbreak of the War in 1939 brought them to an end for the time being.

After the War, his retirement from full-time active laboratory work allowed him to extend his campaigning even more vigorously. He was an outspoken advocate of the importance of gerontology, and in his missionary ardour he sometimes appeared intolerant of the ideas of others. But any irritation engendered by his interventions were always more than outweighed by their stimulant effect, and it was clear to everyone that he was never seeking any personal advancement but only the benefit to his chosen subject which recognition might bring. The results of his lifetime of strenuous effort will be found not so much in his large series of careful scientific publications as in the numerous national societies for the study of problems of ageing throughout Europe and the Americas, in the International Association of Gerontology and in the enhanced status which the subject has now acquired.

P. L. KROHN

NEWS and VIEWS

Chief Scientist to the Ministry of Power :

Dr. C. M. Cawley, C.B.E.

DR. C. M. CAWLEY, C.B.E., has been appointed chief scientist to the Ministry of Power in succession to Sir Kelvin Spencer, who has retired from the public service. Dr. Cawley, who is fifty-two, has been at the headquarters of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the past six years, where he has been responsible for administering general policy in relation to the work of the Department's research stations, and to grants made by the Department to the universities and other bodies, for the promotion of research and the training of research workers. He is a University of London graduate with first-class honours in chemistry and joined the Scientific Civil Service in 1929, serving on the staff of the Fuel Research Station until 1953. He will take up his new appointment at the Ministry of Power in the early autumn.

Ministry of Supply Appointments :

Dr. N. J. L. Megson

DR. N. J. L. MEGSON has been promoted to be deputy chief scientific officer and appointed director of materials, research and development (air) at the Ministry of Supply Headquarters. Dr. Megson studied chemistry at the University of Birmingham under Prof. G. T. Morgan. He obtained his B.Sc. in 1923 and his M.Sc. in 1925. He joined the Chemical Research Laboratory, Department of Scientific and

Industrial Research, in 1927, as head of the Synthetic Resin Section and carried out fundamental and applied work on various aspects of polymers, particularly in the phenolic resin field.

On the outbreak of war he was appointed to the Ministry of Supply as advisor on plastics and later became assistant director in charge of the Advisory Service on Plastics, Rubber and Paints, concerned with development and application of new and special materials for a variety of Service equipment. In 1949 he was awarded the degree of D.Sc. by the University of Birmingham for a thesis entitled "Polymer Investigations". He became head of the Chemistry Department, Royal Aircraft Establishment, in 1951, responsible for research and development of non-metallic materials associated with aircraft and airborne equipment. Dr. Megson is the author of fifty or sixty publications, including a book, "Phenolic Resin Chemistry", and he has recently been awarded the Gold Medal of the Plastics Institute. He succeeds Dr. H. Sutton, whose direct contribution to and sponsorship of work on light metals for aircraft construction has brought him deservedly wide appreciation.

Dr. B. G. Dickins, C.B.E.

DR. B. G. DICKINS, who has been promoted to be chief scientific officer and appointed as director general of atomic weapons in the Ministry of Supply, brings to that post wide knowledge of