

NEWS and VIEWS

The Henry Dale Professorship of the Royal Society

THE Council of the Royal Society has accepted a generous gift of £100,000 from the Trustees of the late Sir Henry Wellcome to establish and endow a Royal Society professorship in medical research to be known as the Henry Dale professorship. The Wellcome Trustees have made this gift to commemorate the unique services of Sir Henry Dale to the Trust as its chairman for twenty-two years as well as his outstanding contributions to science and medicine in a wider context. In accepting the gift, the Society expresses its gratitude and great satisfaction in being associated with the Trustees in this act of honouring its distinguished Fellow, Sir Henry Dale, who has also rendered conspicuous service to the Society both as secretary (1925-35) and as president (1940-45). The Council of the Royal Society greatly values this outstanding benefaction, which will significantly increase the Society's capacity to promote medical research. The appointments to the new professorship will be especially, but not necessarily exclusively, in relation to research in physiology and pharmacology, which are the particular interests of Sir Henry Dale. This announcement of the establishment of the new professorship was made on Sir Henry Dale's eighty-sixth birthday, June 9.

The National Institute for Medical Research :

Sir Christopher Andrewes, F.R.S.

SIR CHRISTOPHER ANDREWES retired on June 6, after thirty-four years service as a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council; he was head of the Division of Bacteriology and Virus Research at the National Institute for Medical Research, and had been deputy director of the Institute since 1953. Sir Christopher's scientific career coincides closely with the modern development of medical virology, and he is recognized internationally as an authority in this field. His name will always be associated with the outstanding work that led to the discovery of the influenza virus; in this he played a leading part, and the viruses of influenza and other respiratory diseases have remained his principal scientific interest. This is illustrated by the courageous decision that was taken by the Medical Research Council, on the personal initiative of Sir Christopher, to set up a research group under his direction in the Harvard Hospital at Salisbury for the long-term study of the elusive problem of the common cold. The combined laboratory and human volunteer organization that he established was universally recognized as being admirably designed for this type of work, and it is most gratifying that Sir Christopher's persistence in the face of repeated disappointments should have been rewarded by the discovery at Salisbury, a year before his retirement, of methods of isolating and cultivating common cold viruses. Sir Christopher has also contributed to the increasingly important subject of the nomenclature and classification of viruses. He has lectured on his subject in many countries and he has trained many pupils; the present flourishing state of medical virology owes much to his work and influence.

Dr. A. Isaacs

SIR CHRISTOPHER ANDREWES is succeeded as head of the Division of Bacteriology and Virus Research at the National Institute for Medical Research by Dr. Alick Isaacs. Dr. Isaacs qualified in medicine at the University of Glasgow in 1944. After house appointments and the tenure of a research scholarship in the Department of Bacteriology in Glasgow he spent a year in the Department of Medicine at Sheffield, and then worked for two years with Sir Macfarlane Burnet in Melbourne; this experience has had great influence on his subsequent career. Dr. Isaacs joined the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council in 1950 in order to work at the National Institute for Medical Research in the Division of which he is now taking charge, and during the past ten years he has established himself as a leading research worker in virology. His interests have lain chiefly in influenza and related viruses, and he has been responsible for the World Influenza Centre which was set up at Mill Hill, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, for the study of the epidemiological aspects of the disease, particularly in relation to the appearance of new strains of virus and their influence on the spread of epidemics from country to country. During the past few years Dr. Isaacs' work has attracted much attention through his discovery of interferon, a substance produced in cells as a result of viral infection, which has an inhibiting effect on viral growth. This is a discovery with widespread implications, and it has aroused interest and stimulated new research in laboratories throughout the world.

Mineral Technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology: Prof. M. G. Fleming

DR. M. G. FLEMING, who has been appointed to the new chair in mineral technology in the Department of Mining at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, is a graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. On leaving college he spent four years in the mining industry, finally holding the appointment of chief metallurgist at the Paymaster Gold Mine, Ontario. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, Fleming joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, and after various appointments in Training Command flew as flight lieutenant navigator with 435 Squadron from Down Ampney, Gloucestershire. On his return to civilian life in 1946, Fleming was appointed to the staff of the Royal School of Mines, which is one of the constituent colleges of the Imperial College, becoming senior lecturer in 1951 and reader in 1958. These years since the War have seen the establishment of the new degree course in mineral technology following the opening of the Mineral Dressing Laboratories in 1953. Fleming's main research interest has been connected with investigations into flotation phenomena, particularly the characteristics of secondary lead minerals, and he has also given much attention to the application of basic research to plant operation. He is well known for his work in both these fields and has been consulted frequently by industry and