

NEWS and VIEWS

Medical Statistics in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Prof. A. Bradford Hill

PROF. A. BRADFORD HILL retires from the chair of medical statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the end of the current academic year. As a son of the late Sir Leonard Hill he has inherited perspicacity and sharpness of wit, but he has made his own very distinctive contributions to medicine and to statistics. He joined the staff of the Medical Research Council and its Industrial Health Research Board in 1923, and soon immersed himself in problems of industrial sickness. His surveys of sickness in the cotton spinning, cotton weaving and printing industries immediately became standard references, and early in this period he read to the Royal Statistical Society a classical paper on the effect of internal movement of population on local mortality. In 1933, Hill became reader in epidemiology and vital statistics in the University of London and set himself to understand doctors and their problems and to teach them what he calls "arithmetic with logic". He was pre-eminently successful in both tasks. In 1937, he published *Principles of Medical Statistics*, a text-book which still occupies an unchallenged place, is in its sixth edition in English and has been translated into other languages. Since 1945, Hill has been professor of medical statistics in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and director of the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council. His interest and experience in the conduct of the controlled clinical trial are probably unique, and he has set very high standards for his unit. Any research worker who survives Hill's devil's advocacy can be sure his experiment is properly designed; he can also be sure of warm encouragement and help. Hill has been widely honoured, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (1954), president of the Royal Statistical Society from 1950 until 1952 (to which he gave much time and energy as honorary secretary during 1940-50) and its gold medallist in 1953; president of the Section of Epidemiology, Royal Society of Medicine 1953-55, and member of the International Statistical Institute.

Prof. P. Armitage

DR. PETER ARMITAGE who, at thirty-seven, succeeds Prof. Bradford Hill in the chair of medical statistics is a mathematical graduate of Cambridge. His studies were interrupted by the War and he went to the Ministry of Supply Statistical Advisory Department during 1943-45, and later to the Mathematics Division of the National Physical Laboratory. In 1947 he joined the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council. Dr. Armitage has contributed much to recent advances in mathematical statistics, especially in their application to prophylactic and therapeutic trials. In particular he has developed the sequential method as a highly effective tool and has recently published an excellent text-book, *Sequential Medical Trials*. Dr. Armitage is, like his predecessor, unstinting in his efforts to further the cause of the Royal Statistical Society; he has been a member of the Council since 1954 and an honorary secretary from 1958.

Pharmacy at the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow: Prof. J. P. Todd

PROF. JAMES P. TODD, who retires at the end of this session, was appointed to the newly constituted School of Pharmacy in the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, in 1921 as its sole lecturer. The growth of the School to its present proportions is a remarkable tribute to his foresight and able direction. The first courses offered were those leading to the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society, but in 1924 the first student was enrolled for the degree of B.Sc. in pharmacy of the University of Glasgow, which had been instituted in 1907, and teaching for this degree began in the School under the Ordinance of Affiliation. Todd was awarded a Ph.D. in 1932, and in 1937 was appointed professor of pharmacy, this being the first chair of pharmacy in the United Kingdom. His responsibilities also included the Departments of Botany and Bacteriology, and the Scottish School of Bakery. Much of the credit for the development of these disciplines to the status of full departments with separate chairs in food science and in applied microbiology and biology belongs to Prof. Todd. No record of his achievements would be complete without mention of his work during the War years, when infusion fluid and blood transfusion units were set up in the College under his direction. The permanent West of Scotland Region Blood Transfusion Service stands as a lasting reminder of this period of his career. His studies of bacterial pyrogens, which later became a major interest, stemmed directly from this work, and he is now recognized as a leading authority on this subject.

Prof. J. B. Stenlake

DR. JOHN B. STENLAKE, who is to succeed Prof. J. P. Todd, was educated at Ealing Grammar School. He then served an apprenticeship in pharmacy before proceeding on a Jacob Bell Memorial Scholarship to the College of the Pharmaceutical Society, where he qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1941 and was awarded the Pereira Medal. After war service in the Royal Air Force, he joined the teaching staff of the School of Pharmacy of the University of London, and during this period graduated B.Sc. with honours in chemistry. In 1950 he was awarded a Ph.D. degree by the University of London and a D.Sc. (London) in 1960, for work in the field of medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry. Since 1952 he has held the appointment of senior lecturer in pharmaceutical chemistry in the School of Pharmacy of the Royal College of Science and Technology. He will take up his new post on September 1.

Applied Microbiology and Biology at the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow:**Prof. E. O. Morris**

DR. ERNEST O. MORRIS has been appointed to the new chair of applied microbiology and biology at the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, and will take office as from September 1. Dr. Morris was educated at the Handsworth Junior Technical School, Birmingham, and, during 1929-39, worked as a laboratory technician in a hospital and in the Departments of Cancer Research and of Pathology