

efeller Foundation, have been supporting the researches of the Institute for many years he was truly grateful. One must also sincerely hope that he was not unaware of the profound and lasting affection with which he filled the hearts of all those who have had the good fortune of being associated with him. To his widow, Dr. Anna Keilin, and daughter, Dr. Joan Keilin, goes out the sympathy of scores of devoted friends, all of whom share with them the sadness of their bereavement. Their sense of irreparable loss may be partly lightened in the near future when Dr. Joan Keilin accomplishes the publication of her father's nearly completed book which deals with many aspects of his researches.

T. MANN

Prof. Anna Weizmann

PROF. ANNA WEIZMANN, professor emeritus in the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, died on February 16 in Rehovoth.

It was in the summer of 1938, while on a visit to Eretz-Israel, that I first met Anna Weizmann. I had returned to Palestine for the first time in twelve years on a pilgrimage long deferred. For me, this return was overflowing with the excitement and emotional impact of witnessing the impressive record of development in the homeland after an absence of more than a decade.

One morning I came to the Daniel Sieff Research Institute, a scientific outpost and oasis amidst a patchwork quilt of sandy desolation flanked by citrus-groves. Anna was among the first to whom I was introduced. I had heard of her by repute, the 'Chief's' younger sister, who had followed him into the field of organic chemistry; but I was not prepared for her charm and dry humour, the acid wit that stamped her as a Weizmann, the easy, affable manner of one who was so fully adjusted to her scientific environment.

I cannot recall the gist of our initial conversation, but as I met and spoke with her in the downstairs laboratory that she was to occupy for so many years, until she moved into the 'Chief's' own laboratory after his death, I formed an instant liking and attachment that grew over the next quarter-century.

The Weizmann family had a remarkable record. Every one of the twelve sons and daughters had gone into some skilled profession as the younger ones followed in the footsteps of the elder. Chemistry, medicine, engineering—in each of these vocations a Weizmann brother and sister had found dedicated fulfilment. Anna, like her elder

brothers Chaim and Moshe, of the Hebrew University, had chosen the field of chemistry; and the value of her work on plant fermentations, and later in compiling the first contributions to a record of medicinal plants in Israel, was reflected in her numerous papers which appeared in the world's scientific journals.

After Dr. Chaim Weizmann's death, she devoted herself to maintaining the family's scientific tradition in circumstances which were saddened by the death of her brothers and sisters, Moshe, Yechiel (Chillik) and Haya Lichtenstein; and, the last blow of all that struck at her failing health, the passing of Chillik's widow Yehudit (Ida), mother of General Ezer Weizmann, chief of the Israel Air Force.

The one ray in her life in the midst of these many sad bereavements was the arrival from the U.S.S.R. in 1956 of her younger sister Masha, a doctor of medicine, and her husband.

Anna Weizmann was the last living link with the Weizmann scientific tradition; and, as part of it, her own contribution will be for ever remembered.

MEYER W. WEISGAL

Captain A. Ritscher

THE death is announced from Hamburg of Captain Alfred Ritscher at the age of eighty-four. In his long career as a research worker in polar regions two events stand out most.

In 1912 he commanded the vessel of the Schröder-Stranz Expedition to Spitsbergen waters, and to him goes the credit of saving its members after the ship was wrecked on the north coast of the Island. Ritscher trudged alone for seven days across the icy wastes in order to fetch help from the mining settlement of Long-yearbyn. This very exacting experience in no way damped his ardour for polar research, and in 1938 he led the German Schwabenland Expedition to the Antarctic. In the course of it, wide areas of the Antarctic continent were mapped by aerial photogrammetry, and ranges of mountains earlier unknown were discovered from the air. In the years following the Second World War, Ritscher devoted himself to working up the scientific results of the expedition, and among the honours which came to him for his nautical and scientific achievements were the Grand Cross for service to the Bundesrepublik, and the Kirchenpauer Medal of the Geographical Society of Hamburg.

NEWS and VIEWS

The Royal Society:

Research Professorships

FOLLOWING the announcement by the Royal Society of the appointment of Prof. G. H. Beale to the first of the new Royal Society research professorships which have been established with financial support from the Government (*Nature*, 197, 1252; 1963), it has been announced that the second holder of a Royal Society research professorship will be Prof. R. H. Dalitz, at present professor of physics in the University of Chicago. Prof. Dalitz, who is distinguished for his contributions to nuclear theory and the physics of elementary particles, will work in the Department of Theoretical Physics at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, and be known as "Royal Society Research Professor at Oxford University".

Leverhulme Visiting Professors to India

IN October of last year the Royal Society and the Leverhulme Trust announced the establishment of a scheme for the appointment of two visiting professors to visit a university or research institution in India each

year for a period of about four months. The Royal Society and the Leverhulme Trust have now announced the first two appointments of visiting professors to go to India during October-March 1964: Prof. R. D. Haworth, who retires this year as Firth professor of chemistry and head of the Chemistry Department in the University of Sheffield, will visit the University of Madras as visiting professor in the field of organic chemistry; Prof. H. S. Lipson, professor of physics in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Manchester, will visit the University of Calcutta as visiting professor in the field of physics.

Professor of Chemistry, The Royal Institution of Great Britain :

Prof. G. Porter, F.R.S.

PROF. G. PORTER has been elected professor of chemistry at the Royal Institution. Prof. Porter, who is professor of physical chemistry at the University of Sheffield, a post he has held since 1955, is also to succeed Prof. R. D. Haworth as Firth professor of chemistry and head of the Department of Chemistry at Sheffield, as from