

University of London; Prof. W. D. R. Hunter, Department of Zoology, Syracuse University; Prof. J. H. Hutchison, Department of Child Health, University of Glasgow; Dr. W. F. H. Jarrett, Department of Hospital Pathology, University of Glasgow; Prof. R. M. Kenedi, Biochemistry Research Group, University of Strathclyde; Dr. C. G. Kuper, lecturer in the Department of Theoretical Physics, University of St. Andrews; Dr. G. M. Lewis, senior lecturer in the Department of Natural Philosophy, University of Glasgow; Dr. J. D. B. MacDougall, senior lecturer in anatomy, University of St. Andrews; Dr. D. J. Manners, lecturer in chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Dr. W. D. Munn, senior lecturer in the Computing Laboratory, University of Glasgow; Prof. R. C. Nairn, Department of Pathology, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; Dr. R. P. Pearce, lecturer in mathematics, Queen's College, Dundee; Dr. Helen K. Porter, lately professor of plant physiology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and director of the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Plant Physiology; Dr. V. C. Reddish, principal scientific officer, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh; Dr. M. J. Smyth, lecturer in astronomy, University of Edinburgh; Prof. J. S. A. Spreull, Department of Veterinary Surgery, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh; Dr. H. J. Thomas, principal scientific officer, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen; Mr. R. P. Tripp, mill manager; Mr. R. W. Young, headmaster of George Watson's Boys' College, Edinburgh.

Biochemistry at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School: Sir Charles Dodds, Bart., M.V.O., F.R.S.

THE end of the present academic year will mark the retirement of Sir Charles Dodds from the Courtauld professorship of biochemistry at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, a title in the University of London which was created for him at the exceptionally early age of twenty-five. In 1928, as the result of a further generous gift from the same donor, the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry was built with Edward Charles Dodds as its first director, a post which he has held with the greatest distinction ever since and in which he will be succeeded by Prof. R. H. S. Thompson, from October 1, 1965. Dodds is very much a product of 'The Middlesex', where he was successively a medical student, a demonstrator and a lecturer in chemical pathology, into which he introduced from the United States the new Folin methods of rapid clinical analyses. Within two years he had published with G. E. Beaumont *Recent Advances in Medicine* (1924) and with F. Dickens *Chemical and Physiological Properties of the Internal Secretions* (1925). This set the pattern of his life's work which has contributed greatly both to clinical biochemistry and to endocrinology. The discovery in 1938 of the potent artificial sex-hormone, stilboestrol, was a landmark in hormone research, as well as providing the first oral drug capable of controlling one form of cancer. Dodds was made M.V.O. in 1929, elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1942, knighted in 1954, created a baronet in 1964, and elected president of the Royal College of Physicians in 1962. His degrees and honours occupy more than a column of *Who's Who*, and include chairmanship of various bodies such as the Scientific Advisory Committee of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research. He is a member of the National Research Development Corporation and recently he has been made a member of the newly formed Council for Scientific Policy. In spite of all these activities he has always retained with his shrewd judgment a keen sense of humour, a love of travel, a taste for pageantry and for good food and wine, which make him an excellent companion and the possessor of innumerable friends in many different walks of life, all of whom will wish him well on his retirement from his professorship, though none of

them can believe that this will diminish his other widespread activities.

Prof. R. H. S. Thompson

PROF. R. H. S. THOMPSON, who at present holds the chair of chemical pathology at Guy's Hospital Medical School, is to succeed Sir Charles Dodds in the Courtauld chair of biochemistry at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. Prof. Thompson, who is fifty-three, was educated at Epsom College, Trinity College, Oxford, where he was Millard Scholar, and Guy's Hospital. While at Oxford he held the Theodore Williams scholarship in physiology and was Senior Demy at Magdalen College. He qualified in 1937 and was appointed to an Adrian Stokes travelling fellowship at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York. On returning to Britain in 1938 he was elected to the Gillson research scholarship in pathology by the Society of Apothecaries and became a Fellow and Tutor of University College, Oxford, and demonstrator in biochemistry. In 1943 he received his D.M. and was awarded the Radcliffe Prize for medical research. He was attached to the Chemical Defence Research Department of the Ministry of Supply and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the rank of major from 1944 until 1946. In that year he returned again to Oxford and became Dean of the Medical School until appointed to his present chair and a consultantship in chemical pathology at Guy's Hospital in 1947. From 1952 until 1954 he was honorary secretary of the Biochemical Society, and from 1958 until 1962 he was a member of the Medical Research Council. He was the first secretary-general of the International Union of Biochemistry, recently honorary secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine and is at present a Wellcome trustee. Since 1957 he has been a member of the Medical Panel of the British Council. In 1964 he was elected a member of the Royal College of Physicians and also became a Founder Fellow of the College of Pathologists. His main research interests have centred round the biochemistry and chemical pathology of the nervous system, to which fields he has made outstanding contributions. In association with Dr. L. A. Stocken, he played a major part in the development, during the Second World War, of British Anti-Lewisite (BAL). Apart from numerous papers on biochemical and pathological subjects in various scientific journals, he is the joint author of *Biochemistry in Relation to Medicine* and *Biochemical Disorders in Human Disease*.

Science in Parliament: Technology and Manpower

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on February 22, the Minister of Labour, Mr. R. J. Gunter, said that Study No. 1 of the Manpower Research Unit concluded that over the next five years the effect of technological changes on total manpower would be quite marked in particular sectors. However, the effects could rarely be ascribed specifically to automation in the strict sense or to the introduction of computers. With fewer extra workers becoming available the general effect of technological changes would be to alleviate shortages of manpower.

Volunteers for Overseas Services

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on February 23, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Overseas Development, Mr. A. E. Oram, said that this year the voluntary bodies had agreed to aim at 1,600 volunteers for overseas service, of whom 1,200 would be graduate or qualified volunteers. The present programme was subsidized to the extent of 50 per cent from Government funds, and for the next year this would be 75 per cent.

Development Contracts

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on February 23, the Minister of Technology, Mr. F. Cousins,