

lecturer of the University of Notre Dame in 1961, and delivered the Remson Memorial Lecture of the American Chemical Society in 1962. Prof. Porter has a deep interest in scientific education as well as in scientific research, and is well known for his lectures on chemistry to school children. The professorship in chemistry at the Royal Institution was revived for him in 1963, and he has given many lectures in this capacity, both to scientists and non-scientists, while also leading the Department of Chemistry in Sheffield. It is to be hoped that this new appointment will give him the maximum opportunity for the advancement of scientific research and education.

National Institute of Agricultural Botany : Establishment of Systematic Botany Branch

A NEW Branch has been established within the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. This will be known as the 'Systematic Botany Branch' and will consolidate work on the description and identification of plant varieties, which is at present undertaken by Trials and Seed Production Branches. Another function of the new Branch will be to undertake tests on new plant varieties which are required under the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act, 1964. The Branch will form part of the Variety Classification Unit of the Plant Variety Rights Office and will provide information on varieties which have been submitted either for a grant of rights or for inclusion on the Index of Varieties. The Branch will also supply the rest of the Institute with information about the identification of varieties. This information will be particularly valuable in the planning of future trials to test the merits of varieties, and later for the purpose of the various seed certification and seed crop approval schemes.

Mr. A. F. Kelly

The first head of the new Branch will be Mr. A. F. Kelly, who is transferring from his present post of head of Seed Production Branch. Mr. Kelly has been at the Institute since June 1945, when he assisted with the establishment and recording of the renewed programme of variety trials after the Second World War. Later he was in charge of the Institute's seed multiplication work and the production of basic seed of varieties from the official Plant Breeding Stations from 1947 until 1954. In 1954 he was seconded to the Organization for European Economic Co-operation for two years to assist in the development of variety trials of grasses and clovers, and of an international agreement on seed certification methods.

Mr. G. Finch

Mr. G. Finch, who has been appointed acting head of Seed Production Branch, is probably better known to vegetable growers than to farmers in general. He joined the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in 1946 and has been specially concerned with the development of trials on varieties of vegetables throughout England and Wales. In his earlier years at the Institute he was responsible for the seed production side of the work as well as the variety trials and is consequently well known to most producers of root and vegetable seeds.

The Shirley Institute

AFTER forty years at Shirley Institute, Mr. L. H. C. Tippett and Mr. W. A. Richardson retired at the end of June. Both joined the staff on the same day and have seen the Institute grow from small beginnings to an organization with world-wide reputation.

Mr. L. H. C. Tippett

Mr. L. H. C. Tippett, assistant director in charge of physics and mechanical processing since 1951, has become internationally known for his work on operational research and statistics. He was a pioneer in the statistical investi-

gation of process operations in the textile industry. He has served on numerous committees concerned with statistics and allied topics. He was the first chairman of the Committee of Statistics in Industry and Technology of the International Statistical Institute and also the first chairman of the Textile Institute's Quality Control Group. He is now president of the Royal Statistical Society. During the course of his career he has received a number of awards for his work, including the Guy Medal in Silver of the Royal Statistical Society and the Textile Institute's Warner Medal. In 1962 the American Society of Quality Control presented him with its Shewhart Medal for "his outstanding leadership in the field of modern quality control".

Mr. W. A. Richardson

The other member of staff retiring is Mr. W. A. Richardson, whose work as a senior finishing liaison officer since 1958 has brought him into contact with many people in the industry. During the first twenty years of his Institute career his research work on starch resulted in a notable contribution to the technology of warp sizing. From 1943 until 1958 he was head of the Rayon Department and became concerned in the ever-widening field of man-made fibre processing. He has served on several international and Textile Institute committees concerned with the standardization of chemical methods to analysis of fibre mixtures.

Royal Society Research Appointments

THE Royal Society has announced the following appointments to fellowships, dated from October 1, for two years in the first instance: *A Mr. and Mrs. John Jaffé Donation research fellowship*, to Dr. R. F. Griffin to enable him to continue his work on (i) direct photoelectric measurement of stellar radial velocities, (ii) photometric surveys of stellar spectra at high resolution at the Observatories, University of Cambridge; *The Mackinnon research studentship*, to Dr. P. E. Baker to enable him to carry out studies on volcanological and petrological investigations on island-arcs and mid-ocean ridges at the Department of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Oxford; *A Stoilbert research fellowship*, to Dr. C. L. Nobbs to enable him to continue his work on the determination of the mode of attachment of oxygen to myoglobin of the sperm whale at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.

The first Bruno Mendel travelling fellowship has been awarded to Dr. R. Whittam, of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford, to enable him to work in the Department of Biophysics of the Weizmann Institute, Rehovoth, during the academic year 1965-66. This appointment has been established with a gift from Mrs. Hertha Mendel to enable a travelling fellowship to be awarded in successive years to British, Dutch and Israeli candidates to enable them to work abroad in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands or Israel.

Medical Research Council

THE Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. A. Crosland, in consultation with the Medical Research Council and the President of the Royal Society, has appointed the following to the Medical Research Council from October 1: Prof. D. G. Evans, Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Prof. W. Melville Arnott, Department of Medicine, University of Birmingham; Prof. J. L. Gowans, Henry Dale professor of the Royal Society, Department of Pathology, University of Oxford. These members have been appointed in succession to Prof. M. M. Swann, who resigned from the membership of the Council on his appointment to the Council for Scientific Policy, and to Prof. Wilson Smith and Prof. M. L. Rosenheim, who are retiring on completion of their term of office.