

organizing the government machine on scientific lines, of harnessing science to socialism. It was not done well, perhaps, but it was surprising to find it done at all. Disappointments since then, as much in economic as in scientific policy, have made the 1964 election seem more forgettable than most, but Dr Vig, who comes from Columbia University, has persuaded the participants to remember it all for the benefit of his tape-recorder. The results seem first to have been used as a thesis, later as a book, and the final product owes more to the former than to the latter.

Dr Vig's book covers the period of the last Conservative Government, between 1959 and 1964. It deals with the hard facts of British politics—the debates in Parliament, the political manifestos, the pressure groups and the parliamentary questions. These are things which are on record, readily at hand for analysis, and Dr Vig, by the nature of his method (at one point he counts all the parliamentary questions which were asked on science) gives more importance to appearances than to personalities—a refreshing change from much British political writing, which tends to do the opposite. But there is a real danger in this of being blind to the obvious. Is it not possible, for instance, that the Labour Party seized on science as an electoral issue simply because Mr Quintin Hogg was responsible for looking after it?

Dr Vig deals fairly and at length with the positions taken by both parties during what he calls "the science policy debate". For the Government, Mr Hogg elevated the Haldane structure of independent research councils into a political philosophy, arguing at the end that science was capable of being corrupted even by technology. On the other side, some of the most determined spadework was done by Mr Aubrey Jones, who, although a Conservative, was out of sympathy with his party. The Labour Party itself held a series of meetings up and down the country, seeking opinion at the grass roots. The Trend Report was published and pigeonholed. In the end, the Labour Party emerged with a policy far less radical than its earlier suggestions had been, and made only marginal changes in the Department of Education and Science, which had already been reorganized by the Conservatives.

The real results of the debate between 1962 and 1964 have been the Ministry of Technology and the specialist committees of the House of Commons. The chances are that both these innovations have been something to be thankful for. The legislature will undoubtedly be enriched by the select committees, particularly the Committee on Science and Technology, and the executive is on balance better off since the Ministry of Technology came into existence. Unfortunately, although it looks as if it were put together in a hurry, Dr Vig's book is rather out of date, and can make only a superficial judgment of these two innovations. This is a pity, for Dr Vig's analysis of the formulation of policy is sound and sensible, and a valuable addition to the literature.

NIGEL HAWKES

## OBITUARIES

Rev Dr R. T. Wade

ROBERT THOMPSON WADE, the noted Australian palichthyologist, who was born in Dublin in 1885, died on September 23, 1967. He was the eldest son of Robert Wade, of County Clare, who emigrated to Australia in 1890. Young Wade was educated at All Saints College, Bathurst, New South Wales, and graduated BA, BSc from the University of Sydney, later receiving his MA. It was here that he studied geology under Sir Edgworth David, and his interest in the subject, like his pleasure

in teaching the young, continued throughout his life. In 1908 he was ordained.

In 1930 he interrupted his work as a schoolmaster and clergyman to go to Cambridge to study for his PhD, which he took in 1931, his thesis being on the Triassic fishes of Brookvale, New South Wales, of which he had made a substantial collection. After leaving Cambridge, he continued to live in Britain, apart from a brief return to Australia in 1933 to seek further material.

He was a schoolmaster first in North Devon and then in Kent, and always seized every opportunity to work on the Brookvale fishes at the British Museum (Natural History), the Trustees having purchased his collection. In 1935 the result of his researches were published by the British Museum in an admirable little memoir, which has long been a standard work. Later that year he went to the Falkland Islands as dean of Christ Church, but the climate proved too severe for his wife and he returned to New South Wales early in the following year to resume his teaching career. For most of the time he was senior science master at King's School, Parramatta. During this period his interest in the Australian fishes of the Jurassic and Triassic never flagged and he published seven papers on them, chiefly in the *Journal* and *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*. However, after 1953 his wife's continued ill-health, and still later his own, forced him to relinquish active scientific work, although from time to time continuing with his ministerial duties until his death.

### Mr Denzil Blunt

THE news of the recent death of Denzil Blunt, Minister of Forest Development, Game and Fisheries in Kenya from 1955 to 1960 and a former director of agriculture in Cyprus, Nyasaland and Kenya, will make sad reading for all those who have been concerned with international developments in locust control.

As chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Desert Locust Survey Organization in Eastern Africa, which was the British predecessor of the present international Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, Blunt used all his considerable powers of charm, persuasion and single-mindedness, as well as the influence of his position, to promote and foster a truly international outlook, and the cooperation that necessarily goes with this, which he recognized as the essential basis for the efficient and economic control of locusts. He had personal experience, as director of agriculture in Nyasaland and Kenya, of the damage which locusts could do, and of the difficulties which faced purely local efforts to control them. He therefore spared no effort to secure recognition for the fact that countries must be prepared to support campaigns beyond their own borders to protect their own agriculture, and as an earnest of this the Desert Locust Survey worked in Ethiopia and the Arabian Peninsula, far beyond the borders of its member governments.

He played an active part in supporting other international control organizations in Africa, such as the International Red Locust Control Service and the International Organization for the Control of the African Migratory Locust, being chairman of the council of the latter body. He actively supported the entry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations into the international locust field and served on many of the committees which gradually, by patient and persistent efforts, brought about the cooperative arrangements that exist today.

Despite tremendous physical disability of a chronic nature, which he overcame with a courage that was a source of comment to all that met him, Blunt seemed never too busy or too preoccupied with his ministerial duties to listen to or discuss locust matters, and his wide experience both of the practical and administrative side