

NEWS AND VIEWS

Scientific Advisory Committee on the Nation's Food

THE Lord Privy Seal, as chairman of the Food Policy Committee of the War Cabinet, has appointed a committee "to consider and advise upon problems of national food requirements and of home food production with special regard to the shipping and foreign exchange likely to be available for imports of food and animal feeding-stuffs, and the labour and other resources likely to be available for home production".

The committee has been constituted as follows:
Chairman, Sir William Bragg, president of the Royal Society and director of the Royal Institution;
Deputy Chairman, Sir Alan Anderson;
Members, Prof. A. W. Ashby, professor of agricultural economics, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Prof. E. P. Cathcart, F.R.S., regius professor of physiology, University of Glasgow; Dr. Henry Clay, formerly professor of social economics, University of Manchester; Prof. F. L. Engledow, F.R.S., professor of agriculture, University of Cambridge; Mr. W. Gavin, agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Sir Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., secretary of the Medical Research Council; Sir John Boyd Orr, F.R.S., director of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen; Prof. J. A. Scott-Watson, professor of rural economy, University of Oxford; *Secretary*, Prof. D. M. S. Watson, F.R.S., Jodrell professor of zoology and comparative anatomy, University College, London, and member of the Agricultural Research Council.

Chair of Physics at Sheffield: Dr. W. Sucksmith, F.R.S.

DR. W. SUCKSMITH, reader in magnetism in the University of Bristol, has been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Sheffield. Dr. Sucksmith was educated at Hipperholme Grammar School and the University of Leeds where, after four years of service with the Army in the War of 1914-18, he graduated with first class honours in physics in 1921. He then joined the staff of the University of Bristol as assistant lecturer in physics, and was appointed lecturer in 1924 and reader in magnetism in 1939. He was awarded the D.Sc. degree of the University of Leeds in 1930, and has

been elected a fellow of the Royal Society this year. Dr. Sucksmith is particularly distinguished for his work in experimental magnetism. Following a determination of the gyromagnetic ratio for ferromagnetic substances by the direct measurement of the mechanical rotation which accompanies magnetization, carried out by Chattock and Bates at Bristol, he confirmed their results with a null method. He later extended his measurements to deal with paramagnetic substances.

This required experimental skill of a very high order, as the measurements were very much more difficult than those with ferromagnetic substances. In the course of this work it was necessary to measure the susceptibilities of paramagnetic oxides, and to this we owe the design of the Sucksmith ring balance, which has proved useful in many researches.

During the session 1933-34 Dr. Sucksmith held a Rockefeller fellowship at the Federal Technical College in Zurich, where he measured the gyromagnetic ratio for a series of nickel-copper alloys with low Curie points at temperatures above the latter, using the technique previously employed with paramagnetic oxides. Dr.

Sucksmith has also made substantial contributions to our knowledge of the specific heats of ferromagnetic substances and of the magnetic properties of single crystals of nickel. More recently he has been engaged on experiments on the magnetic properties of ferromagnetic substances at high temperatures and on the saturation intensities of magnetization of a large number of ferromagnetic alloys, in which his ring balance has again been put to good use. Since 1937 he has been a member of the Permanent Magnet Subcommittee of the Electrical Research Association.

Prof. S. R. Milner, F.R.S.

WITH the retirement in September of Prof. S. R. Milner, F.R.S., from the chair of physics, the University of Sheffield will lose the services of an eminent man of science and of an outstanding personality, who, during the past forty years, has been untiring in his efforts alike for the advancement of science, for his students, and for the University. A Yorkshireman by birth, Milner spent his early years in Retford, where he attended the King Edward VI

FOR purposes of economy, the sections "Seventy Years Ago" and "Points from Letters" will be suspended after the termination of the present volume of NATURE, that is, June 29.

The Editors are particularly anxious to maintain the amount of space devoted to the more important sections of the journal. This applies especially to the correspondence columns; and, here, contributors are again asked to collaborate by reducing their communications to the absolute minimum. Letters should not exceed five hundred words in length, which corresponds to a column of text.

Monthly supplements of Short Reviews will also be suspended.