

**British Cotton Industry Research Association :
Sir Robert Pickard, F.R.S.**

SIR ROBERT PICKARD has for so long been a figure in scientific and educational circles that his retirement, with the close of 1943, from the directorship of the British Cotton Industry Research Association marks something of an epoch. It is seventeen years since he was appointed to succeed the first director, Dr. Crossley, at the Shirley Institute, and all that time it has been his endeavour and pride to build it up until to-day it is the splendid organization that we know, with a staff of more than three hundred and fifty, including eighty graduates. The Cotton Research Association was Sir Robert's particular interest, the child that he brought to vigorous manhood, but he has been a champion of co-operative research associations in general, and it is a question whether any other man has done more for the movement. He was the first director of the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association before he went to the Shirley, and he has served besides on the councils of two other research associations. It is good to learn that his retirement does not mean that his services to industrial research will be lost entirely, for, doubtless among other activities, he will still be retained as a consultant by both the Associations he has directed.

Sir Robert's connexion with education goes back years even before his research association days. He has been principal of Blackburn Technical School (1907-19) and principal of the Battersea Polytechnic (1920-27), and he has been a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education, a member of the Senate of the University of London since 1926, and has held the office of vice-chancellor of the University of London. A distinguished chemist, he has also played his part in the councils of his chosen subject, having served as vice-president of the Chemical Society, and as president both of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Dr. F. C. Toy

DR. F. C. TOY, who succeeds Sir Robert Pickard as director of the British Cotton Industry Research Association, has been deputy director since 1930, and it is a source of pleasure that he is thus enabled to continue and extend the work he has shared with his chief. Dr. Toy is a physicist, educated at Launceston College, Cornwall, and University College, London, of which he is a fellow. He is well known in Institute of Physics circles, being a member of the Board, the Institute's representative on the National Committee for Physics of the Royal Society, and also chairman of the Manchester and District Branch. He served in the War of 1914-18 as an officer in the Royal Engineers, mainly on sound ranging, afterwards becoming chief physicist to the British Photographic Research Association, where for ten years he was occupied in fundamental researches on the mechanism of the photographic process.

Dr. Toy firmly maintains this fundamental outlook acquired in his earlier days, and he enters upon his new duties with the conviction, based on the experience of the whole of his research life, that pure, long-range investigations constitute more than ever an essential part of the work of any co-operative research organization. This is heartening knowledge for those who recognize where lies the future welfare of British industry, and their good wishes go with

the new director of the Shirley Institute as one who not only has helped to form its high scientific character but also is deeply concerned to uphold it.

Action of the Germans in the U.S.S.R.

ON behalf of the Soviet Scientists Antifascist Committee, V. Komarov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., A. Bogomolets, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and several members of both academies, have sent a message to the Faraday Society, in the course of which they record some of the devastation which has been the regular accompaniment of the German retreat in the U.S.S.R. "Wherever the German army has been, it has brought death and slavery to the people, and destruction of culture." Prof. Nikolai Burdenko, of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., who personally investigated the crimes of the Germans in the city and district of Orel, refers to the state of psychological stupor of both victims of the German occupation and of medical men treating them. Referring to the material damage, it is stated that when they retreated from Smolensk, the Germans burned down the Teaching, Nutritional and Agricultural Institutes, destroyed the Finance, Co-operative, and Railway Technical Institutes, and the Institute of Telegraph and Telephone Communications, and looted valuable collections from Smolensk museums. In the town of Staline, they wrecked the Medical Institute and burned down all the buildings of the Industrial Institute where 15,000 students studied. In Kiev, a number of large buildings, among them the University, with its library, museums and laboratories, were destroyed. All the Kiev museums, libraries, archives, laboratories and research institutions were looted, according to Alexander Palladin, vice-president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Prof. Alexander Brodsky, of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, states that the Germans blew up and burned the Mining Institute, with its library, at the University Institute of Applied Chemistry, and looted and destroyed a number of other research institutes at Dnepropetrovsk. Prof. Peter Budnikov, of the Ukrainian Academy, who visited Kharkov, states that the Germans destroyed the Institutes of Applied Chemistry and of Electrotechnical Engineering, and other institutes.

The message was received at the annual general meeting of the Faraday Society, and by the authority of the Council, and at the wish of those members of the Society who were present, the following reply was sent: "The members of the Faraday Society have received your tragic message with horror and profound sympathy. The Society will do its utmost to bring it to the notice of all scientists and intellectuals of the United Nations to the end that civilization shall be protected and justice be meted out to the barbarians. E. K. RIDEAL (President), G. S. W. MARLOW (Secretary)."

Scientific Personnel in the Aircraft Industry

THE seventeenth report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure for the session 1942-43, containing replies from Government departments to recommendations in reports, includes a memorandum by the Ministry of Labour and National Service commenting on the Committee's recommendations in its tenth report, discussing aircraft production, on the supply of scientific and technical personnel. The memorandum states that the facilities available for