

NEWS and VIEWS

Agricultural Research Council: Secretaryship

It is announced that Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, director of the Plant Pathological Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture at Harpenden, has been appointed to succeed the late Prof. W. W. C. Topley as secretary of the Agricultural Research Council. Mr. Fryer is well known in scientific and official circles and his appointment to this responsible position is amply justified by his special qualifications. He has held his present post for a number of years and at one time it was combined with that of entomologist to the Ministry of Agriculture. Much of the improved technique applied in recent years to pest control has been the result of work initiated or fostered by Mr. Fryer in his official capacity. Educated at Cambridge, and for some time fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Mr. Fryer became Balfour student of the University. During his tenure of this studentship he carried out important researches on the genetics of butterflies in Ceylon and also investigated the fauna and physiography of Aldabra Island in the Indian Ocean. His subsequent career began with the Board of Agriculture and coming from a family well versed in farming experience he brought to his duties practical experience backed by scientific knowledge. His long and close association with this branch of Government service has left him comparatively little opportunity for other activities. Nevertheless, his name is among those who have occupied the presidential chairs of the Royal Entomological Society and of the Association of Applied Biologists. In the appointment of Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, the Agricultural Research Council has placed its secretaryship in exceptionally capable hands.

Stereoscopic Projection

ON June 17, at the Aldis Works, Birmingham, Mr. A. C. W. Aldis gave a demonstration of the stereoscopic projection. He employed special high-intensity projectors of his own design which gave a vivid impression of stereoscopic relief when viewed through the usual coloured anaglyphs. These projectors gave a remarkable efficiency with brilliant screen illumination in spite of the loss of brightness involved by the use of anaglyphs and coloured filters for the screen projections.

Mr. Aldis's approach was through the theory of stereoscopic vision. He invited his audience by suitable screen tests to determine their own stereoscopic appreciation, and produced by means of plane geometrical patterns projected from 50 ft. or more an impression, when viewed through anaglyphs, of a suspended luminous sphere which appeared to move towards the observer, meanwhile diminishing in size. The latter part of the demonstration showed the modern method of prospecting for minerals in jungle territory by means of stereoscopic photographs of the terrain, and was followed by scenes from the actual bomb damage in Germany including the Möhne Dam before and after the attack, the Eder Dam, the Herdicke Bridge and the damage to Mainz, Rostock, Düsseldorf and the Phillips Radio Factory at Eindhoven. These photographs, when viewed by stereoscopic vision, were particularly convincing, and the wealth of detail exhibited gave adequate testimony to the value of the method of projection which Messrs. Aldis have devised.

Penicillin Treatment of War Wounds

THE Medical Research Council's War Memorandum No. 12, entitled "The Use of Penicillin in Treating War Wounds" (H.M. Stationery Office, 1944. 3d. net), is a valuable publication embodying the instructions issued by the Penicillin Trials Committee of the Medical Research Council. There is a prospect, says the memorandum, that large quantities of penicillin may shortly be available and in particular it may be possible to treat a considerable number of casualties in forthcoming military operations. The memorandum is intended to be a guide for the treatment of battle casualties and for the laboratory control of such treatment, and it does not pretend to be a guide to all the clinical uses of penicillin (for a note on these see NATURE, April 29, p. 521; 1944). Further, its instructions are provisional, because experience of the treatment of wounds with penicillin is still relatively small. The properties of penicillin are briefly discussed, and a list is given of the bacteria which are susceptible and resistant to it. Other sections deal with the preparation of penicillin and with its local and systemic administration, with its uses for particular types of wounds, with failures of the treatment and with the laboratory procedures which are necessary for the control of the treatment (diagnosis of the bacteria present, titration of the penicillin content of the blood and of the potency of the penicillin). The memorandum concludes with a valuable list of selected publications and memoranda on penicillin.

Polish Medical Science

THE medical issue of "Polish Science and Learning" (London: Oxford University Press, 1944. 2s. 6d.), which is one of a series of booklets edited by the Association of Polish University Professors and Lecturers in Great Britain, is, its editors state, an attempt to lay a foundation for the future in collaboration with the scientific workers of other nations. The creation of the Polish Medical School and of the Paderewski Hospital in Edinburgh is, as Prof. Jurasz says in his article about them, a symbolic act, a practical demonstration of the determination of the Polish people to continue their national life in spite of all the sufferings of their country; and it demonstrates the existence of practical collaboration between two very different nations. It is perhaps difficult for some Englishmen to realize what hope and encouragement the creation of these two medical centres has meant to the Polish people. Already fifty-three students have graduated from the Polish Medical School. Many civilian students who are unfit for the Polish armed forces have joined it after leaving their schools in Great Britain, and others have got leave from the Army to continue their studies interrupted by the War, while some have gone there from the U.S.S.R. or after their escape from German prison camps. The Paderewski Hospital is devoted entirely to Polish patients and to the training of medical students and graduates. In addition to this hospital provision, valuable work has been done by a Polish sanatorium for tuberculous cases in Great Britain. Established at the end of 1942 at Gallowhill Hall, this sanatorium has now a capacity of one hundred beds and can carry out the best treatment. The majority of Polish cases of tuberculosis are, however, still distributed throughout British hospitals and Polish military hospitals. The percentage of tuberculosis, says Dr. Spitzer, is higher now among