

Oxford to the Leather Section of the Dyehouse Department, where he worked for nine years before he took charge of the Application Research Section. In 1942 he was promoted to the position of assistant chief colourist and two years later became head of the Dyehouse Department. During the course of his career, he has travelled widely in India, South America, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and most of the European countries. Away from business his principal activities are connected with the Society of Dyers and Colourists, of which he is a member of the Council and chairman of the Lancashire Section, and with the Textile Institute, of which he is a Fellow. He has also concerned himself in the affairs of the Manchester College of Technology and recently completed his third year as external examiner in the Textile Chemistry Department.

Agriculture at Leeds: Prof. N. M. Comber

PROF. N. M. COMBER, who has been associated with the University of Leeds for more than forty years, retires at the end of the present session with a distinguished record in the service of agricultural science and education. A graduate of the University of London (Royal College of Science), he went to the Department of Agriculture as assistant lecturer in agricultural chemistry in 1913. In 1925 he became professor of agricultural chemistry, and seven years later head of the Department. His work has been notable for important contributions to soil chemistry and his authorship of books on the subject as well as his active interest in and devotion to agricultural education. He has served on the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Chemical Industry, and he has been chairman and treasurer of the Agricultural Education Association. Further, he has been chairman of the Yorkshire Branch of the Rural Community Council and done much by his support and encouragement for the young farmers' club movement in Yorkshire. In 1949 he was elected president of Section M (Agriculture) of the British Association; but his address, entitled 'Farming Science and Education', was read for him as illness prevented his attendance. He has served on many university committees and on the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the University Grants Committee, and the value of his knowledge and experience will be greatly missed.

Prof. T. L. Bywater

PROF. T. L. BYWATER, at present occupying the Strathcona-Fordyce chair of agriculture at the University of Aberdeen, succeeds Prof. Comber as head of the Department, and will be professor of agriculture. He is no stranger to Leeds, as after graduating with first-class honours in agriculture at the University College of North Wales in 1927 and gaining the M.Sc. at Wisconsin University in 1928, he was appointed to the Department of Agriculture as assistant lecturer in agriculture. He became lecturer in 1934, senior lecturer in 1945, and left in 1946 when he accepted the chair at Aberdeen. During the War he was seconded for advisory work to the West Riding Agricultural Executive Committee. He specializes in animal husbandry and has carried out investigations in fat lamb production, pig rearing, sheep crossing and bullock fattening. He will be able to make full use of the new University farm in continuing this work.

The Agricultural Improvement Council

THE Agricultural Improvement Council, set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1941, has now been reconstituted, having reached the end of a further three-year period of office. A major function of the Council is to keep under review the technical problems affecting the agricultural (including horticultural) industry and to advise the Minister on the need or otherwise for research and investigation for their solution. The newly constituted Council has now a somewhat wider responsibility, and it includes in its orbit the study of estate management problems covering both farm buildings and other forms of fixed equipment. Before work on a problem can be undertaken it must be clearly defined and its importance assessed; this the Council achieves through one or other of its several committees. It is also an equally important function of the Council to ensure that the agricultural community shall be acquainted as rapidly as possible with the results of research after they have been tested on a scale large enough to warrant their introduction to the practising farmer.

The work of the Council is aligned on one hand with that of the Agricultural Research Council, to the notice of which it brings matters requiring research attention, and on the other with that of the Agricultural Advisory Services, to which it looks for answers to those other problems that can best be solved on commercial farms and experimental stations and through which it puts over the results of research to the farmer.

The membership of the Council, which includes farmers, land-owners, men of science and others, is as follows: Sir Alan Hitchman (*chairman*), Sir Edward Salisbury (*vice-chairman*), Prof. F. Blake-more, Harold Collison, Sir Frank Engledow, H. R. Finn, Frank Griffith, T. Neame, the Duke of Northumberland, H. J. Rathbone, F. Rayns, Prof. Ellis J. Roberts, Prof. H. G. Sanders, F. A. Secrett, Sir William Slater, H. Cole Tinsley, Sir James Turner, Prof. T. Wallace and W. Morley Davies (*secretary*).

The Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops

THE Commonwealth Bureau of Pastures and Field Crops, which has been attached to the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, for the past twenty-four years, will be transferred to Hurley, Berkshire, in August 1953, where it will be attached to the Grassland Research Station, of which Dr. W. Davies is director. This Bureau, one of the ten Commonwealth agricultural bureaux, was founded at Aberystwyth in 1929, its first consultant director being Prof. (now Sir) George Stapledon. For the first twenty years of its existence the Bureau was in charge of Dr. R. O. Whyte, who was succeeded as director in 1949 by Mr. A. G. G. Hill, formerly director of the East African Agricultural Research Institute, Amani. The Bureau issues the well-known quarterly abstract journals *Herbage Abstracts* and *Field Crop Abstracts*, in addition to its other activities.

Medical Research Council: Applied Psychology Research Unit

DR. N. H. MACKWORTH has been appointed director of the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Research Unit, at Cambridge, as from October 1. He succeeds Sir Frederic Bartlett, who directed the Unit in an honorary capacity while