

the second half of Gilbert's reign. For many years Grey was field superintendent in charge of the famous field plots, and never were they better cared for.

Outside his work Grey entered into the social life of the village and Laboratories with great zest, and his unusually clear memory of scenes and dialogue enabled him to record, in his later years, the human story of the Laboratory and its surroundings in two most readable books. One of these, "Reminiscences of the Rothamsted Laboratories, Staff, and Experimental Fields", gives a striking and vivid picture of the original Rothamsted and its great and also its

humbler personalities. The other, "Cottage Life in a Hertfordshire Village", portrays in almost photographic detail the daily lives and customs of a small rural community in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

On his retirement in 1922 after fifty years service, Edwin Grey was presented with an address bearing many of the best known names in agriculture. He maintained his interest in Rothamsted affairs for the rest of his long life. Seldom did one visit him without coming away with some interesting sidelight on the Rothamsted story. He was the last survivor of the old order.

H. V. GARNER

## NEWS and VIEWS

### University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

THE announcement was made on February 15 that H.M. the Queen has, by order in Council dated February 10, approved a grant of a Royal Charter to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federal Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Godfrey Huggins, was present at the Council. Furthermore, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, has accepted the office of president of the College. As we recorded more than eighteen months ago (*Nature*, 172, 1; 1953), the Carr-Saunders Commission on Higher Education for Africans in Central Africa recommended that the College in which it was interested should be granted complete autonomy and that it should be established by Royal Charter. The news that this has now been done will be pleasing to all who wish well of the experiment now being made in higher education in Central Africa. Reference has been made to this experiment in these columns from time to time (see *Nature*, January 29, p. 181), and the granting of a Royal Charter to the new university institution is indeed welcome. The news that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who laid the foundation stone of the College during her visit to Central Africa in 1953, has agreed to become the first president of the College will also be received with pleasure. It is one more indication of the serious interest which the Royal Family takes in university education.

### University College of the West Indies

THE Jamaica Sugar Manufacturers' Association is to make a contribution to the funds of the University College of the West Indies in response to an appeal made by the Chancellor, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The gift will take the form of 8*d.* a ton on all 'quota sugar' sold during the next seven years. Over this period, the contribution is expected to amount to £75,000. Caroni Ltd., Trinidad, the British Guiana sugar producers and the West India Sugar Company are also to respond to the appeal.

### International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

DR. H. J. Bhabha, director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, and chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, will be president of the United Nations Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy which opens in Geneva on August 8. Prof. Walter G. Whitman, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology, will be secretary-general of the conference. In this capacity, Prof. Whitman will serve as an officer of the U.N. Secretariat, and he will be assisted by a three-man U.N. working party consisting of Ralph J. Bunche and Ilya S. Tchernychev (U.N. Under-Secretaries), and Dr. Gunnar Randers (special consultant to the Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, in matters relating to the conference). Eighty-four countries have been invited to attend the conference. Mr. Hammarskjold said the nominations were made in accordance with the views of the seven-nation advisory committee drawing up plans for the conference. He will appoint six vice-presidents from nominees to be designated by Brazil, Canada, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, which with India constitute the advisory committee; India is, of course, providing the president. There will also be a chairman and a *rapporteur* for each of the sections into which the conference will be divided for working purposes. These officers will be appointed by the Secretary-General before the conference opens. They will be selected from scientists eminent in the relevant fields, and equitable geographical distribution will be taken into account.

After a preliminary address by Dr. Bhabha, the conference will open by considering the world's estimated power requirements in some fifty years time, in order to set the stage for discussion of the effect of nuclear energy on the world power problem. The agenda is divided into the following main subjects: need for a new power source; the role of nuclear energy; the building of a nuclear energy enterprise; health and safety aspects of nuclear energy; production and use of isotopes; problems relating to large quantities of radioactive substances. These will be considered in plenary session. In addition, section meetings will be held on such topics as reactors, biological and medical questions, and the application of isotopes to research and industrial problems. All subjects must be dealt with and presented only from the scientific and technical points of view. Papers must reach the Secretary-General not later than July 1; their titles, accompanied by an abstract not exceeding 500 words, should be submitted by May 15. Each country and specialized agency attending may send up to five representatives including, to the extent possible, individual experts competent in the atomic energy field; they may be accompanied by as many advisers as necessary. All meetings will be held in public, and will be interpreted in four languages,