

friend and confidant. His obvious sincerity and complete honesty of purpose won for him the esteem and affection, not only of innumerable chemists, but also of many government officials, fellow bird-watchers and members of the Savage Club—and, not least, of those whose opinions he combated most vigorously.

Born in 1886, Collett was educated at St. Paul's School, London, and, after graduating in natural sciences from Trinity College, Cambridge, he specialized in the chemistry of food, drugs and water at King's College, London. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry in 1913. During the First World War he was first commissioned in the Middlesex Regiment, but was later transferred for specialist duties in connexion with water supplies and served for three years in France as a captain in the R.A.M.C. After the War he was successively chemist to a brewery and a member of the scientific staff of the

newly formed British Leather Manufacturers Research Association.

He took a close interest in the work of several scientific societies and had been a vice-president of the Society of Public Analysts, now the Society for Analytical Chemistry. Before his appointment as a salaried officer of the Institute of Chemistry, Collett had been a member of its council and had served as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of its London Section. During the Second World War he gave valuable assistance to government departments in connexion with the utilization of the services of qualified chemists and was afterwards appointed M.B.E. After his retirement he was attached in an advisory capacity to the Association of University Teachers, and continued to act as a consultant on the engagement and conditions of service of chemists in industry.

H. J. T. ELLINGHAM

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Chemical Technology at the University of Edinburgh : Prof. K. G. Denbigh

THE first occupant of the recently instituted chair of chemical technology in the University of Edinburgh is to be Dr. K. G. Denbigh, who will take up his duties there in October. Dr. Denbigh is at present a University lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Cambridge. He is forty-four years of age, and was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield, and at the University of Leeds, where he graduated with first-class honours in chemistry in 1932. He continued his studies by research on the fluorides of sulphur and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. His old University has recently recognized his distinguished contributions to a wide field of scientific subjects by conferring upon him the degree of D.Sc. Dr. Denbigh's career has been almost equally divided between chemical industry and university teaching. He has held appointments with Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and with the Ministry of Supply Royal Ordnance Factories and was for a time a lecturer in the University of Southampton. In 1948 he was appointed to a University lectureship in the then newly-established Department of Chemical Engineering at Cambridge, and from the start he has been largely responsible for the teaching of chemical thermodynamics and associated subjects. His researches have been mainly concerned with the kinetics of reactions between gases and liquids and between gases and solids, and he has published a number of papers on these topics and in the general field of chemical kinetics and thermodynamics. His monograph "The Thermodynamics of the Steady State" (Methuen, 1951) has become very well known, and a text-book, "The Principles of Chemical Equilibrium", has been announced by the Cambridge University Press for the autumn. Dr. Denbigh is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and a member of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, and he is a member of the Education Committee of the latter organization.

### The Animal Health Trust : Dr. K. C. Sellers

THE Animal Health Trust has appointed Dr. Kenneth Charles Sellers to be director of its new

Farm Livestock Research Station at Stock, Essex. Dr. Sellers, who is thirty-nine, is at present in the service of the Ministry of Agriculture as veterinary investigation officer in Yorkshire. He was trained at the Royal Veterinary College, London, and then went to the University of Cambridge, after which he was appointed to the staff of the Institute of Animal Pathology at Cambridge. He remained at the Institute, with the exception of war service, until joining the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Sellers has already contributed some thirty papers on widely varying aspects of disease problems, including a survey of losses during pregnancy and parturition in sheep, vitamin deficiencies in livestock, bovine mastitis, ketosis in pregnant ewes, and various nutritional problems. Pending completion towards the end of the year of a new range of laboratories at the Farm Livestock Research Station at Stock, temporary laboratory accommodation has been provided at Lilystone Hall, where alterations have been made to meet library, lecture hall and reception room requirements and for provision of residential flats for various members of the staff. The nucleus staff from the old Farm Livestock Station at Houghton Grange in Huntingdonshire have moved to Stock.

### Perkin Centenary Celebration in 1956

IN 1856, William Henry Perkin, then aged eighteen, discovered the first synthetic dyestuff, later called 'mauve', and from this discovery have developed the modern dyestuffs industry and the greater part of the world's organic chemical industries. It is planned to celebrate in London, during May next year, the centenary of this discovery, and six bodies are co-operating in making the arrangements: the Royal Society; Chemical Society; Society of Chemical Industry; Society of Dyers and Colourists; Royal Institute of Chemistry; and the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers. Under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, the president of the celebration is the president of the Royal Society, with the presidents of the sponsoring societies as vice-presidents. An organizing committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Robinson, and four sub-committees have been formed to deal with the following aspects: technical and