

NEWS and VIEWS

Geology at Bedford College, London :

Prof. Leonard Hawkes, F.R.S.

THE retirement of Prof. Leonard Hawkes from the chair of geology at Bedford College, University of London, is a milestone in a life devoted to the establishment of a university department renowned for the liberal and cultural bias of its geological teaching. Between the World Wars, as the first occupant of the chair, Prof. Hawkes brought to his task experience gained in the Universities of Durham and Kristiania, and enlivened the substance of his teaching with much original research, some of it exploratory research in difficult ground, on the volcanic history, the petrology and the geomorphology of Iceland. For many years he has been a wise counsellor in geological affairs, notably in the activities of the Geological Society, of which during 1934-42 he was an honorary secretary and afterwards a vice-president; and he is known with affection and regard by many younger geologists as a tolerant and generous friend. His qualities as scientist, educator and administrator were recognized by the award by the Geological Society of the Murchison Medal to him in 1946. His Department did not escape the devastation of war, and in 1945 he was faced with the burden of planning its rebuilding. He leaves Bedford College in the sure knowledge of foundations well laid and superstructure well designed in both material and academic senses.

Dr. Basil C. King

PROF. HAWKES'S successor, Dr. Basil King, has had a varied career in the Colonial Survey service and in universities. A graduate of Durham, London and Glasgow, he was for more than ten years a petrologist and field-geologist in Uganda and Nigeria, where he contributed greatly to knowledge of Pre-Cambrian and igneous rocks, and to the exploitation of economic minerals. Returning to Britain in 1948 to become senior lecturer in the University of Glasgow, he has achieved high distinction for his researches on petrogenesis, notably on rock transformations in the granitic suite. His work on ancient volcanoes is illustrated by reconstructions of former conditions in Arran and in Africa—a continent in which he continues to take an active interest most recently expressed by the survey of an igneous field in Bechuanaland. Latterly, structures in the Scottish Highlands have attracted his attention and are being studied by a small research team under his supervision. A lucid and persuasive lecturer, he is an effective tutor and administrator in university extramural work. By a happy coincidence, he returns to Bedford College as professor in the Department in which he received his first professional appointment twenty years ago.

Physical Chemistry in Queen Mary College, London :

Prof. K. W. Sykes

DR. K. W. SYKES, senior lecturer in the University College of Swansea, has been appointed to the newly created chair of physical chemistry in the University of London, tenable at Queen Mary College. Dr. Sykes read chemistry at Oxford, where he held the Rigge Exhibition and Percival Benefaction at the Queen's College. After obtaining first-class honours in 1943, he carried out research on war-time problems under Sir Cyril Hinshelwood for his D.Phil. He remained

in Oxford for a further three years as an I.C.I. Fellow, and in 1948 was appointed to a lectureship, and in 1951 to a senior lectureship, in the University College of Swansea. At Swansea Dr. Sykes had the task of completely reorganizing the course in physical chemistry and establishing a school of research. Dr. Sykes's own researches have been mainly in the field of solid-gas reactions, to which he has made distinguished contributions; he has also published important papers on the ferric-iodide reaction and on complexes of the ferric ion. Dr. Sykes is a chemist with wide interests, and his appointment will be a great asset to the growing school of chemistry at Queen Mary College.

Copper Pass Awards for Papers on Metallurgy

THE following Copper Pass Awards have been made by a joint committee representing the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and the Institute of Metals for papers published during 1954 in the *Transactions* of the Institution and the *Journal* of the Institute: £100 to G. Lawrie Fairs (a method of predicting the performance of commercial mills in the fine grinding of brittle materials); £100 to F. King and Dr. A. N. Turner (control of quality in the hot and cold rolling of aluminium and aluminium alloys); £50 to G. L. Hopkin, Mrs. J. E. Jones, A. R. Moss and D. O. Pickman (arc melting of metals and its application to the casting of molybdenum); £50 to Prof. M. Rey (flotation of oxidized ores of lead, copper and zinc). The Awards are made from a fund given by Copper Pass and Son, Ltd., for the encouragement of scientific and technical papers on processes and plant used in extraction metallurgy and on the subject of assaying, and also papers and processes used in all branches of the non-ferrous metal industry.

Government Support of Agricultural Research in Britain

THE Agricultural Research Bill, which received an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons on December 13, provides that, except for Scotland, the financial and general administration of the grant-aided research institutes in England and Wales, as well as their scientific direction, will be unified under the Agricultural Research Council; the institutes will accordingly be transferred from the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the Vote for the Agricultural Research Council, which will be removed from that of the Treasury and appear under a separate head. It is also proposed to reconstitute the appropriate Privy Council Committee so that in future it consists only of the Lord President of the Council, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister representing the Scottish Department, and to amend the Charter of the Council so that the two Departments have direct representation on the Council. To avoid constituting the Council as a separate government department and making certain research workers Civil servants, an Agricultural Research Fund is to be set up, which will receive an annual Parliamentary grant-in-aid.

The Bill was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. D. Heathcoat Amory, and was also welcomed by Mr. Thomas Williams for the Opposition, who urged the importance of increasing the support for agricultural research. Sir Leslie Plummer pointed out the necessity of planning research for more than one year at a time, and this was widely supported in the debate. It was also suggested that the Agricultural Research Council