

of urgently needed drugs, and she also carried out investigations on lachrymatory war gases; for these services she was made O.B.E. She will, however, be particularly remembered for her teaching, which she greatly enjoyed. At the time of her retirement from Imperial College in 1934 she said, "When I first came to the College in 1898 I little thought to find my life's work here as a member of the teaching staff, but my love for teaching has made it seem all too short. No one who has not passed through an experience such as mine can understand the fascination which is involved in the constantly changing types of students and the human interest attaching to them". She took a particular interest in the women students, and was largely responsible for the foundation, in 1912, of the Imperial College Women's Association, of which she was president for many years. Earlier (1904-8) she had taken a leading part in efforts, unsuccessful at the time, to secure the admission of women to fellowship of the Chemical Society; it was highly appropriate that in due course she should become the first woman to be elected to its Council (1928-31).

During the many years she spent at Imperial College, Dr. Whiteley formed a connexion with "Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry" which in later years was to become a source of great happi-

ness to her. She had been associated with Sir Edward Thorpe and with Sir Jocelyn Thorpe in the production of the second and third editions, and after her retirement in 1934 she continued to work on supplementary volumes and on the preparation of the fourth edition, the first volume of which appeared in 1937. After the death of Sir Jocelyn in 1940, she became editor-in-chief, and despite inevitable war-time restrictions and personal difficulties, which included the destruction of her home in an air-raid, the work went on. In the years since the War, her physical health deteriorated, but her mind remained as clear and alert as of old, and with her indomitable will she continued to edit scripts and to read every word of galley and page-proof; it was rarely that an error escaped her. Volume XI, which, apart from a general index, was the last of the fourth edition, appeared in 1954, and the completion of this considerable undertaking gave her much satisfaction, inevitably tinged with some sadness. Her health now became progressively worse, and she died on May 24, 1956, in her ninetieth year.

Martha Whiteley's concepts of duty and service, and her way of life, were sustained by her Christian beliefs; her memorial is in the respect and affection which she engendered in generations of students, colleagues and friends.

L. N. OWEN

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Royal Meteorological Society: Napier Shaw Memorial Prize

At the meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society on June 20 the president, Dr. R. C. Sutcliffe, announced that the first award of the Napier Shaw Memorial Prize of the Royal Meteorological Office had been made to Dr. Norman A. Phillips, of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, for his paper, "The General Circulation of the Atmosphere: a Numerical Experiment", which was published in the April issue of the Society's *Quarterly Journal*. This Prize has been established as a result of an appeal to the members of the Royal Meteorological Society and to scientific instrument manufacturers for a memorial fund to commemorate the unique position achieved in meteorology by Sir Napier Shaw, the centenary of whose birth fell on March 4, 1954. It was decided to use this fund for the regular award by competition every two or three years of a Napier Shaw Memorial Prize of £100 for original essays on meteorological topics. The first competition was announced in 1954, the topic selected being "The Energetics of the General Circulation", and entries were open to anyone without restriction of nationality.

### Chemistry at Hull: Prof. N. B. Chapman

With the appointment of Prof. Brynmor Jones to the vice-chancellorship of the University of Hull (see *Nature* of January 21, p. 116), the G. F. Grant chair of chemistry at Hull which he has vacated has been filled by Dr. Norman B. Chapman, reader in chemistry in the University of Southampton. Dr. Chapman was educated at the Holgate Grammar School, Barnsley, and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he was successively scholar, research student and bye-Fellow, being University demonstrator during 1945-46. While at Cambridge he carried out

research on oxidation by peroxidase systems, and on chemical warfare and anti-malarial agents. Early in 1947 he went to Southampton, becoming successively lecturer in organic chemistry, senior lecturer and, in 1955, reader. In Southampton he has built up a strong school of research with two principal lines of work: a study of the kinetics of many organic reactions, including the substitution of halogens in aromatic and heterocyclic ring systems; and the synthesis of nitrogen-substituted halogeno-ethylamines, histamine derivatives, and other substances of potential pharmacological importance. He has a wide knowledge of physical as well as of organic chemistry, and among many other interests are cricket, rugby football and opera. The warmest wishes of his many friends at Southampton and elsewhere go with him and his wife to Hull.

### Chief Colourist of the Dyestuffs Division, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.: Dr. T. Vickerstaff

DR. T. VICKERSTAFF has been appointed chief colourist of the Dyestuffs Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., in succession to Mr. G. O. Mitchell, who has retired after thirty-seven years of service with the company. After leaving the University of Manchester, Dr. Vickerstaff joined Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., in 1935, and was at first engaged in work on problems of dyeing wool, which was carried out in the University of Leeds. This was followed by a short period at the Huddersfield Works of the Dyestuffs Division, and then in 1937 he was transferred to the Dyehouse Department at Hexagon House, which is the administrative headquarters of the Division in Blackley, Manchester. He became closely associated with the work of the newly formed Dyeing Research Section of the Dyehouse Department and was appointed head of the Section in 1942. During this period he made valuable contributions to the study of colorimetry and became a leading