

these and to initiate and maintain lines of research which have been successful in several directions. Some of these lines, such as the storage of oiled eggs, had immediate industrial application. Others were aimed at discovering the mechanism of deteriorative changes which occur during prolonged storage such as, for example, the thinning of the white, the weakening of the yolk membrane, and the production of undesirable changes in flavour due to enzymic oxida-

tion. These were all problems needing deep exploration and a capacity for skilful research of the most fundamental nature. But for his deflexion from 1940 onwards to the more applied aspects of his work, Brooks would almost certainly have established for himself as high a reputation in academic circles as he enjoyed in responsible quarters for his technical skill and knowledge of matters pertaining to eggs.

E. C. BATE-SMITH

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Air Ministry Appointments :

**Mr. Hayne Constant, C.B., C.B.E., F.R.S.**

MR. HAYNE CONSTANT has been appointed Scientific Adviser, Air Ministry. As a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the Aeronautical Research Council, and as director of the National Gas Turbine Establishment, Pyestock, he has for many years been closely connected with forward thinking in the aeronautical field. Born in 1904 at Gravesend, Kent, he went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, as a scholar in 1924 and graduated with first-class honours in the Mechanical Science Tripos in 1927. After a year's postgraduate research he entered the Royal Aircraft Establishment, and, after work on aircraft vibration and the performance of engines on weak mixtures, he pioneered work on the axial jet engine. His career has been mainly devoted to the advancement of the gas turbine as a prime mover, particularly for aircraft, in which sphere there has been such enormous advance in the past twenty years. In 1941, Hayne Constant was head of the Engine Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment. In 1944, he linked forces with the Power Jets Whittle team as Power Jets, Research and Development, Ltd., and when that body became the National Gas Turbine Establishment he was deputy director. In 1948, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and in the same year he succeeded Dr. (now Sir Harold) Roxbee Cox as director. In this capacity he was responsible not only for research but also for the centralization of the National Gas Turbine Establishment, bringing the Whetstone (Leicester) Whittle group to Pyestock, and the development of Pyestock into the biggest centre in Britain for gas turbine and ramjet test plant, including the Engine Test Facility. He received the Busk Memorial Prize of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1932, and the Clayton Memorial Prize of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1947. He was, from its inception in the war years, a member of the Gas Turbine Collaboration Committee with senior representatives of the British aero-engine industry. His views of, and predictions for, the gas turbine are published in his book "Gas Turbines and Their Problems", and in lectures and papers in many scientific and technical journals.

**Mr. R. H. Weir, C.B.**

MR. ROBERT HENDRY WEIR has been appointed director of the National Gas Turbine Establishment in succession to Mr. H. Constant. Mr. Weir, who has been principal director and director general of engine research and development since January 1, 1954, was born in 1912 and educated at Allan Glens

School, Glasgow, and the University of Glasgow, where he graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours in mechanical engineering in 1933. After an apprenticeship with Wm. Denny and Bros. Ltd., Dumbarton, he joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment in November 1933, where he was a member of the Engine Department until January 1939. He was then transferred to a post at headquarters in London, where he was engaged on aero-engine performance and work on pressurized cabins until December 1940. His next posting was to the Aircraft and Armament Experimental Establishment, Boscombe Down, where he spent a period of eighteen months on aero-engine liaison duties, and then transferred back to Engine Research and Development Headquarters in July 1942, for special duties on gas turbines. Mr. Weir was appointed director of industrial gas turbines in February 1950, and director of engine research and development in August 1952. He was made principal director of engine research and development in January 1954, which post was re-named director general of engine research and development in January 1959.

**Ministry of Health : Sir John Charles, K.C.B.**

SIR JOHN CHARLES, chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Home Office, is retiring on November 30. He is a graduate of the University of Durham, and achieved a high reputation as medical officer of health, Newcastle on Tyne. In addition to competent administration, he made important epidemiological, nutritional and public health inquiries. During the Second World War he was appointed a deputy chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health and in 1950 became chief medical officer. In Sir John's ten years of office he has given much attention to the development and consolidation of the National Health Service. He has seen a further notable decline in tuberculosis and diphtheria, and has encouraged effective vaccination against poliomyelitis. Among many other subjects which have engaged his attention are the mental health services under the new Act, the dental services, care of the aged and the progress of maternity and child welfare work. Sir John has visited various parts of the world in the interests of international health, being also chairman of the Executive Board of World Health Organization and president of the twelfth World Health Assembly. He gave the Bradshaw Lecture in 1948 and the Harveian Oration in 1955 to the Royal College of Physicians. He can look back with satisfaction on his tenure of office as medical adviser to three departments of State; and in his retirement