Medical Statistics at Belfast: Prof. E. A. Cheeseman

Dr. E. A. Cheeseman was recently appointed to a personal chair of medical statistics in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Queen's University of Belfast.

Dr. Cheeseman was educated at the William Ellis School and the University of London. He obtained his B.Sc. (Economics) in 1938, and Ph.D. (Medicine) in 1947. He was a member of the Territorial Army at the outbreak of war and until early 1945 served with the Royal Artillery. After six months as a statistical staff officer with H.Q. 21 Army Group he was demobilized with the honorary rank of Captain. After the War he joined the Department of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics at the London School of Hygiene as a member of the Medical Research Council's Statistical Research Unit under Prof. A. Bradford Hill. In 1948 he became lecturer in medical statistics in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Queen's University of Belfast, and adviser in medical statistics to the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. He was appointed reader in 1952. He is a member of the Statistical Committee of the Medical Research Council and of the Statistics Sub-Committee of the Registrar-General of England and Wales, and has been the author or part-author of numerous publications in the field of human genetics and the statistical aspects of medical research. His chief professional interests are advising medical colleagues on the design and analysis of experiments and trying to convince medical undergraduates and postgraduates that statistics are not as difficult as they appear to be.

Control of Colleges of Advanced Technology in Britain

On June 22, Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, made a statement in the House of Commons on the development of colleges of advanced technology. Control of these colleges, which have been maintained by local education authorities, should be transferred to independent governing bodies. These would receive direct grants from the department of education. His proposal stems from the observation that the success of these colleges in developing as national institutions of higher education has engendered new problems of planning and staffing. Though local government has given good service in the past, to-day the colleges are too big for local management. Bearing in mind the quest of the Robbins Committee and the consideration it might be giving to the future of colleges of advanced technology, the Minister is writing to associations of local authorities and teachers to propose this new status. To preserve links with the local authorities, who have been so helpful, it is suggested that the authorities continue to be represented on the new governing bodies.

The Colonial Microbiological Research Institute, Trinidad

The Colonial Microbiological Research Institute, Port of Spain, Trinidad, was opened on July 5, 1948, by Lord Hankey, chairman of the Colonial Products Research Council. The function of the Institute was to devote its energies to fundamental research in microbiology, to the application of the results of its investigations and to assisting agricultural and other industries in improving their products. The Institute maintained a collection of micro-organisms, the Hankey Culture Collection, in which microbes of industrial or agricultural importance received special attention. It has now been decided to close the Institute as from April 30. It had been financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Research funds up to March 31, 1960, and by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago during the past year. The buildings had become the property of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. They have since been given to the University College of the West Indies and leased by the College to the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory in furtherance of closer association between these two institutions. The Hankey Culture Collection is now housed in the Faculty of Agriculture, University College of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, and is under the charge of a curator.

Science and Television

The first attempt to provide a connected and long-term series of science programmes on television for adults has been announced by the B.B.C. Broadcast on Saturday mornings, the series has been grouped under the headings of "The Structure of Matter", "Physics in the Service of Man", "Human Biology" and "Science for Medicine", and will continue until the end of the year. Each programme has been broadcast previously on one or other of the B.B.C. programmes, but they have been re-arranged to provide a new basis for study and to illustrate definite themes. The speakers include many well-known men of science from Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and should enrich a collection of programmes which should bring pleasure to many viewers. It will be interesting, later, to see which members of the community have followed the broadcasts. Full details of the whole series have been set out by the B.B.C. in a recent pamphlet entitled *Saturday Morning Television introduces Science on Saturday* (Pp. 16. London: British Broadcasting Corporation, 1961), which can be obtained from 35 Marylebone High Street, London, W.1.

Pfizer Virus Research Laboratories

The latest aid to vaccine research by the Pfizer Group at Sandwich is the provision of a new specially designed building for research into virus diseases. It has extensive laboratory and animal accommodation, and is designed to preclude the possibility of infectious organisms escaping to the outside as well as preventing any contamination entering the building. The unit consists of three sections: a group of laboratories and two groups of animal blocks of four wards each, all completely separate and designed so that movement of personnel and air between each is controlled. Each animal ward and laboratory has its own high-intensity ultra-violet lock entrance. Sterile air is supplied to individual rooms and temperatures can be adjusted individually. One of the most important research projects to take place in this building will be the investigation of trachoma, a virus disease which causes blindness in Africa and Asia. The Pfizer Group are co-operating with the British Medical Research Council's Trachoma Research Group in this project.

Strontium-90 in Milk, 1960

A number of investigations have already indicated that the levels of strontium-90 in milk produced in the United Kingdom have been determined in large measure by the rate of fall-out occurring at or near

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