

NEWS and VIEWS

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry :

G. E. Yates

MR. G. E. YATES has been appointed director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Mr. Yates, who is fifty-five, was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and the University of Edinburgh, taking his M.A. with honours in history. He entered the Home Civil Service in 1931 and served in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Home Security, and the Office of the Minister of State in the Middle East. Mr. Yates was a member of the United Kingdom delegations to the United Nations and other international conferences at the end of the War, and, as a delegate to the International Health Conference in New York in 1946, signed the treaty establishing the World Health Organization. He transferred to the Secretariat of the United Nations in 1946; served as secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and later as senior director in the Department of Economics and Social Affairs. He was executive secretary of many United Nations conferences, including the special commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council which set up the United Nations expanded programme of technical assistance in 1949 in Geneva, and of the plenipotentiary conference for the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, New York, 1961.

Mr. A. Duckworth continues as secretary of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

The Public Health Laboratory Service Board :

Prof. J. W. Howie

PROF. JAMES WILLIAM HOWIE has been appointed director of the Public Health Laboratory Service Board in succession to Sir Graham Wilson, who retires from the post in September 1963. Prof. Howie, who is fifty-five years of age, has held the chair of bacteriology in the University of Glasgow since 1951, and is also senior consultant bacteriologist to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. He is vice-president of the College of Pathologists, and is a member of the Agricultural Research Council. He graduated in medicine at the University of Aberdeen, gaining honours both in his first degree and in his doctorate. He became a lecturer in the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow, and then served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War as a specialist pathologist in Nigeria and at the War Office. Thereafter he was for five years head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology in the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen.

The Medical Research Council

IN written answers to questions about the Medical Research Council in the House of Commons on January 29, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Science, Mr. D. Freeth, stated that in the past five years the Medical Research Council had set up twenty-seven research units and nine research groups, and had also decided to establish a Clinical Research Centre to be linked with the new district hospital to be built at Northwick Park, Harrow. The Council's staff had increased from 2,213 in 1957-58 to 2,772 in 1961-62, its total expenditure on current grants had risen from £201,483 to £481,038, and the number of awards from 138 to 259. This does not take account of support provided for medical research through its research units and groups, training awards and grants for special departmental apparatus. Expenditure on research grants to universities had risen from £201,483 to £561,700.

Psychiatric Research in Britain

IN a written answer in the House of Lords on February 7, the Minister for Science, Viscount Hailsham, stated that the expenditure of the Medical Research Council on psychiatric research had risen successively from £63,000 in 1957-58 to £130,000 (1958-59), £170,000 (1959-60), £228,000 (1960-61) and £247,000 in 1961-62. The money was used during 1961-62 to support the Council's eight psychiatric research units as well as investigations relevant to mental illness being undertaken in other units in social medicine and genetics. It included a special grant to the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, London; support for five members of the Council's external scientific staff studying problems of mental illness; and nineteen research grants and eleven training awards. More recently the Council had established a research group at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, to study the relation between organic and functional mental disorders, and research in psychiatry was also undertaken in university departments and in teaching hospitals with support from the University Grants Committee as well as in the National Health Service.

The Commonwealth Scholarships (Amendment) Bill

AT the Committee stage of the Commonwealth Scholarships (Amendment) Bill in the House of Commons on January 28, the Government was strongly pressed regarding the eligibility for scholarships of those who had not received formal education of university standard, and the Commission was criticized as too strongly representative of the academic outlook. In reply, the Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. J. Tilney, quoted a directive of March 4, 1960, from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations: "Awards tenable at residential colleges of adult education which provide one-year or two-year residential courses may also be considered. These would be especially suitable for students of mature age who have not attended a university". It was therefore open to the overseas countries to nominate non-graduates, but they could not be forced to do so. Other scholarships were available, including those from the British Council. [See also pp. 731 and 752 of this issue of *Nature*.]

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

THE third annual report of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, covering the year ended September 30, 1962, records a total of 381 scholars in attendance at United Kingdom universities and colleges in the session 1961-62 (Pp. 44. London: H.M.S.O., 1963. 2s. 6d. net). As expected, more than half the scholars for 1960 applied for extension of tenure of their awards into 1962-63, and accordingly the Commission decided it could not offer more than 209 new awards, for which 396 nominations were submitted. Owing to late withdrawals, only 188 candidates accepted scholarships and the statutory limit of 500 held in 1962-63 was not reached. This limit will be removed under the Bill now before Parliament (see pp. 731, 752 and preceding note). Some 232 applications were received from United Kingdom candidates for awards tenable in eleven different Commonwealth countries, and during the period covered United Kingdom students held Commonwealth Scholarships in nine Commonwealth countries. Four invitations to Commonwealth visiting fellowships for tenure in the session 1961-62 were accepted, but one was afterwards agreed for tenure at a later date. Total expenditure on the Plan in the United Kingdom in the year was £290,000, and the Commission is satisfied