

NEWS and VIEWS

Veterinary Surgery at Liverpool: Prof. J. G. Wright

AT the end of the present session, Prof. John George Wright retires from the chair of veterinary surgery in the University of Liverpool, which he has held since its foundation in 1941. During this period, Prof. Wright has been head of a Department which comprised veterinary surgery, obstetrics and medicine, and also animal husbandry. From 1941 until the School became a Faculty in 1952 Prof. Wright was chairman of the Board of Veterinary Studies, and from then until 1961 he was Dean of the Faculty. In 1928, five years after qualifying as a veterinary surgeon, he was appointed professor of *materia medica* in the Royal Veterinary College and later professor of surgery. After making distinguished contributions to small-animal surgery and anaesthesia, he turned, when the Second World War broke out, to farm livestock and threw himself with characteristic energy and enthusiasm into teaching veterinary students on farms and at a temporary field station in Berkshire. He was elected to the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1939 and has served continuously on the Council ever since, being president for two years. At Liverpool he established the first permanent veterinary field station, sited in the Wirral peninsula in Cheshire. With his retirement, the Liverpool School loses a great teacher and one who taught students not only how to carry out the technical procedures which veterinary practice requires but also instilled in them the highest standards of professional conduct. He has impressed staff and students alike by his energy, enthusiasm, absolute honesty and integrity, and his whole-hearted devotion to teaching others how to treat sick animals and restore them to health and productivity.

Dr. R. J. Fitzpatrick

DR. R. J. FITZPATRICK, senior lecturer in pharmacology in the University of Bristol, succeeds Prof. J. G. Wright at the beginning of next session. Dr. Fitzpatrick qualified as a veterinary surgeon in London in 1944, and after a time in practice he took the honours course in physiology at University College, London, and then spent the years 1948-50 as a demonstrator there, working with Prof. Schild and Prof. Nixon on the effect of drugs on the pregnant and non-pregnant uterus. When the new Veterinary School was established at Bristol, Dr. Fitzpatrick joined the staff as lecturer in pharmacology and has been responsible for teaching pharmacology to veterinary students and bridging the gap between the theoretical and clinical aspects of therapeutics. He has continued his study of the response of the uterus to hormones and has an international reputation in this field. He has been visiting research professor of obstetrics in the Medical School of the University of Uruguay, an invited speaker at international conferences in Britain and overseas, and he is a member of the Main Committee of the British Veterinary Codex and chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Jockey Club Stewards and National Hunt Stewards on Doping in Racehorses. Dr. Fitzpatrick is likely to stimulate clinical research over a wide field and to extend the activities of his Department when the large-scale building programme envisaged at the Veterinary Field Station is approved and completed. Dr. Fitzpatrick is interested in veterinary education as a whole and in the welfare of students, having for some years acted as a tutor in Bristol.

C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry: Dr. J. E. Falk

DR. J. E. FALK has been appointed chief of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization's Division of Plant Industry (Australia) in succession to

Dr. O. H. Frankel, who was appointed to the C.S.I.R.O. Executive last year (*Nature*, 193, 1026; 1962). The Division of Plant Industry has headquarters in Canberra and laboratories and field stations in Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland. The Division has a staff of nearly 500 people and an annual budget close to £1,000,000. Its work encompasses genetics and plant breeding, plant introduction, microbiology, general chemistry, plant nutrition, plant biochemistry and biophysics, ecology, agricultural physics and agronomy. Dr. Falk, who is forty-five years of age, graduated from the University of Sydney in 1942. In 1949 he won a Nuffield fellowship which enabled him to work at University College Hospital Medical School in London with Prof. C. Rimington on pyrrole pigment metabolism; he was awarded the Ph.D. degree of the University of London in 1951. In 1953 he was awarded the Foulerton research fellowship of the Royal Society. Dr. Falk joined C.S.I.R.O. in 1955 as leader of the biochemistry team in the Division of Plant Industry. He has carried out research into several aspects of the chemistry and biochemistry of porphyrins and their metal complexes, and in recent years his work has contributed to the understanding of the natural haemoproteins. His research achievements were recognized by his election in 1961 to a fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science. Dr. Falk will be assisted by four senior scientists, who will be designated assistant chiefs; they are Drs. J. B. Langridge, R. M. Moore, F. H. W. Morley and J. R. Philip.

Metallurgy at the University of the Witwatersrand:

Prof. D. D. Howat

PROF. D. D. HOWAT, who was seconded to the University of the Witwatersrand by the Transvaal and Orange Free State Chamber of Mines to enable him to hold the chair of metallurgy for the period March 1-December 31, 1962, has been appointed to the permanent staff of the University as professor of metallurgy and head of the Department. He was formerly director of the Central Metallurgical Laboratory of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa Ltd., where he was responsible for the direction of numerous projects dealing with new metallurgical processes and techniques. These included the recovery of uranium oxide by pressure leaching of ores, the extraction of vanadium pentoxide from the ores of the Bushveld Complex, and the production of high-purity gold on the reduction plants by the chlorination of Merrill slimes. Prof. Howat, who is a graduate of the University of Glasgow, obtained his Ph.D. in 1934. During the Second World War he was in charge of metallurgical operations at two Royal Ordnance factories in Wales and in 1946 returned to the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, to resume his duties as senior lecturer, a post he had held since 1937. In 1956 he went to South Africa on being appointed director of the Central Metallurgical Laboratory.

The Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme

THE ninth annual report of the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme records three bursars from the United Kingdom to Australia in 1963 and two to New Zealand from the end of 1962 (Pp. 8. London: The Royal Society and the Nuffield Foundation, 1963). Four bursars from Australia are recorded as visiting the United Kingdom in 1963 and one each from Canada and India. Four other bursars are reported: one from Australia to Canada and one from Canada to Australia; one from Rhodesia and Nyasaland to Australia; and one from the West Indies to Australia.