

attracted to the College, by the high reputation for training which the College soon acquired, and by its fine record of research accomplished.

While he has been described as helping to lay the foundations of the Indian Agricultural Service, it can be said with no less force that he did much to fashion the Colonial Agricultural Service. Not the least important task of the College was the training of staff to man the Colonial departments of agriculture, and most of the officers recruited in that period could look back, in pleasurable memory, to the College under Evans.

Evans left Trinidad in 1938 to become economic botanist at Kew, a position in which his wide knowledge of tropical crops could be well utilized. In 1941, on the sudden death of Sir Arthur Hill, director of Kew, Evans was called on to act in his place, and he administered the affairs of Kew for two of the difficult war-years, leading its force of local defence volunteers, and afterwards commanding the Home Guard of the adjoining borough of Richmond.

He remained as economic botanist until the end of 1953, taking special interest in the provision of useful plants to countries of the Commonwealth and their growing under conditions of quarantine at Kew. He served as chairman of the Colonial Committee on Anti-locust Research, as a member of the Committee on Colonial Agricultural Research, and on various other committees and Government commissions. During 1947-48 he was chairman of a commission appointed to examine the possibilities provided by British Guiana and British Honduras for settlement of people from over-populated West Indian islands and of people displaced from European countries. Few commissions can have been as energetic as this one, as led by their chairman, ever an active man, they travelled by canoe and by jeep, on horseback and on foot, seeking areas fit for development in the interior of these countries. Although little action followed publication of the report, it remains an admirable account of the resources of these territories and means for their development.

On retiring to his home in Sussex from Kew and from his various committees, he yet retained one post in which he took a special interest, and, as chairman of the committee managing the National Pinetum at Bedgebury in Kent, he supervised with almost paternal care the progress of the coniferous plantings.

Geoffrey Evans was honoured for his work in the First World War by the award of the C.I.E., and was knighted

in 1934 in recognition of his work in Trinidad. He was honoured in a wider sense by those knowing him who respected his upright character and responded to the warmth of his genial and kindly friendliness. The regard in which he was held extended equally to Lady Evans, who, after sharing his life for forty-nine years, survives him along with their two daughters. T. A. RUSSELL

### Dr. Francis M. Defandorf

DR. FRANCIS MARION DEFANDORF, an authority in the field of high-voltage measurements at the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, died on August 18. He was born in Garrett Park, Maryland, in 1897. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 1920; a master's degree from Harvard in 1923; and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1927.

His professional career was at the National Bureau of Standards, where he first worked on a summer task in 1916. He rose to become chief of the Electrical Instruments Section for the last seventeen years of his life. Here his broad knowledge, meticulous care and dedication to the task at hand served as inspiration to his associates. The present 2-million-volt High Voltage Laboratory of the Bureau is in large measure the result of his initiative in starting it, his skill in planning it, and his wisdom in directing its development.

He was very active in local civic and scientific matters. His services to the Philosophical Society of Washington and to the Washington Academy of Sciences were recognized by his election to the presidency of each in 1946 and 1954, respectively. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and active in the work of its local section, of which he was chairman in 1941-42. He also devoted much effort to the national standardizing work of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and of the American Standards Association, particularly in the field of lightning protection. He was the author of a number of technical papers on lightning and on methods for measuring very high voltages.

During the Second World War and the Korean conflict, he was engaged in highly classified applications of electricity.

## NEWS and VIEWS

The Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford:  
Sir Howard Florey, P.R.S.

SIR HOWARD FLOREY, who became professor of pathology at Oxford in 1935, is now the Provost of the Queen's College and has relinquished the chair. Sir Howard has made unrivalled contributions to the development of pathology as an experimental science in Britain. His work has ranged from the study of inflammation and mucus secretion to the discovery, with Prof. E. B. Chain and other colleagues, of the chemotherapeutic properties of penicillin and, more recently, to investigations with the electron microscope relating to occlusive diseases of the arteries. His distinction has been recognized by the award, in 1945, of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine and of the Royal and Copley Medals of the Royal Society. His outlook and leadership have made the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology a unique department of its kind, and fortunately he will be able to continue his work there. At the same time, he will be well placed, as Provost of Queen's, to express his views effectively on matters relating to science in the University. Sir Howard was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1941, and first served on the Council during 1942-43. For the period

1951-53 he was a vice-president and in 1960 was elected president (see *Nature*, 188, 896; 1960).

Prof. H. Harris

SIR HOWARD has been succeeded in the chair and in a professorial fellowship at Lincoln College by Dr. Henry Harris, who graduated at the University of Sydney, first in the Faculty of Arts and then in Medicine. Dr. Harris went to the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford, in 1950 with a travelling fellowship from the Australian National University and continued to work there until 1959. After a year in the United States he became head of a new Department of Cell Biology at the John Innes Institute. His first work at Oxford, which upset the prevailing view on the nature of chemotaxis in leucocytes, led to investigations on the physiology of other mammalian cells, and in recent years he has made significant and interesting contributions to our knowledge of the biological role of the ribonucleic acids in cell nuclei. Dr. Harris is a man with an unusual collection of abilities. His appointment ensures that the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology will retain the character it acquired from his predecessor.