

## RECENT DEATHS

DR. JAMES EWING, professor of oncology at the Cornell University Medical College and consulting pathologist at Memorial, Roosevelt and New York Hospitals, from 1913 to 1939 director of Memorial Hospital, died on May 16 at the age of seventy-six years.

EDWARD A. WHITE, professor emeritus of floriculture and ornamental horticulture at Cornell University, died on May 13 at the age of seventy years.

DR. CLARA E. SMITH, professor of mathematics at Wellesley College from 1924 until her retirement in

1934, died on May 12. She was seventy-eight years old.

DR. J. LEON LASCOFF, past president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died on May 4 at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. ALEXANDER P. ANDERSON, botanist and industrial chemist, who maintained a private laboratory at Red Wing, Minn., died on May 7 at the age of eighty years.

DR. WARRINGTON YORKE, F.R.S., Alfred Jones professor of tropical medicine in the University of Liverpool and at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine since 1929, died on April 24 at the age of sixty years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE FUTURE OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

A REORGANIZATION of the British Ministry of Agriculture which would include the setting up of a statutory body, on the lines of the Forestry Commission, for food production and control, free from political controversy, is recommended, according to *The Times*, London, in a report issued by a special committee appointed by the Royal Agricultural Society of England to consider post-war policy.

The members of this committee were Sir Arthur Hazlerigg (chairman), Lord Mildmay of Flete, Lord Cranworth, Sir Merrik Burrell, Sir Roland Burke, Sir George Courthope, M.P., Sir Archibald Weigall and A. H. B. Talbot-Ponsonby. The statutory body, they suggest, should be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, who would be responsible for it to Parliament. Its main duties would be: (1) To deal with the present work of the Food Ministry; (2) to function as an Imports Board; (3) to stabilize prices and link guaranteed prices to guaranteed wages; and (4) to make sure that the land is farmed well and that the fertility of the soil is not only maintained but in many cases materially increased.

The report urges that, after a complete survey of the land, a definite acreage should be earmarked and set aside for agriculture, and that, so long as this land is so earmarked, no death duties should be levied on it. Land-owners and farmers would naturally have to submit to more control than hitherto under ordinary peace-time conditions.

The committee proposes for each county a special committee with one or more paid executive officers, who would travel round the county and report to their committee, which would deal drastically with cases of bad farming. The committees would have to be carefully chosen from the best landowning and farming interests, and there must be a right of appeal to an

impartial tribunal of experts in farming and members with some legal experience.

The change would entail the repeal of part, if not all, of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923, and county councils would need new agricultural committees, which would still deal with small-holdings, diseases of animals and agricultural education.

In the reconstruction of the Ministry of Agriculture, provision would have to be made for a recruitment of a special branch of the Civil Service having practical experience of farming. As a first measure the committee recommends that five surveyors of food production, drawn from the ranks of those who have themselves farmed successfully, should be appointed to the staff of the ministry to be graded as first-grade civil servants commanding high salaries.

The whole basis of entry into the ministry and promotion, it is suggested, should be reorganized, and almost every entrant should undergo training to include at least one year's practical work on a farm. He should either take a degree in agriculture at a university or a two-year course at any leading agricultural college, where, after passing an examination such as for a national diploma in agriculture, he could graduate into the ministry.

## NEW FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

It is announced in *Nature* that the following have been elected ordinary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Dr. A. T. Andreasen, principal of the Orissa Medical School, India; A. H. R. Ball, rector of the Royal High School, Edinburgh; J. G. Chalmers, department of chemistry, University of Edinburgh; J. B. Crawford, treasurer of the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh; Dr. R. G. M. Dakers, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; the Right Hon. William Y. Darling, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh; the Right Hon-