

M. Prather lectures. The lectures were later published in book form, and constitute the only book which he found leisure to prepare.

His own colleagues in the various faculties bestowed upon him the highest honour within the University, by appointing him faculty research lecturer in 1942.

Hoagland was never in robust health; but a strong sense of duty compelled him to carry on without a thought for his own personal well-being. The last four years of his life were marred by serious illness. He carried on with courage and determination to within the last few months of his life, when his eyesight failed him almost completely. This latter blow was the severest of all, for throughout his life he enjoyed reading on a wide variety of subjects. It was characteristic of the man that once he gave up hope of regaining his health he requested retirement from the University, ignoring the serious financial adjustment that such a voluntary step would involve. He was officially retired on July 1, 1949, and died almost two months later.

In 1920 he married Jessie A. Smiley. She died suddenly of pneumonia in 1933. He was left with the responsibility of bringing up three young boys. His three sons, his mother and a brother survive him.

The scientific influence of Prof. Hoagland's life has not come to an end with his death, but will continue through the deep impression which he made on the minds and hearts of his students and friends.

DANIEL I. ARNON

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Joseph Bailey, formerly of the Ministry of Education, sometime president of the Museums Association, on January 4, aged eighty-nine.

Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president since 1935 of Johns Hopkins University, on January 6, aged seventy-one.

Prof. Stefan Meyer, one of the pioneer workers in radioactivity and for many years director of the Vienna Radium Institute, on December 29, aged seventy-seven.

NEWS and VIEWS

Wool Industries Research Association:

Dr. A. B. D. Cassie

THE announcement that Dr. A. B. D. Cassie has been appointed director of research of the Wool Industries Research Association will be received with satisfaction by his many friends in academic and industrial life. A graduate in mathematics and physics of the Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge, he first carried out research in Prof. F. G. Donnan's laboratory at University College, London. In conjunction with C. R. Bailey, he published some twenty papers on the infra-red spectra and structure of triatomic molecules, and then in 1934 joined the staff of the Dyestuffs Division of Imperial Chemical Industries. During the following two years, he introduced dielectric and power-loss methods of indicating the state of aggregation of fillers in rubber, and then transferred to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where he worked with Sir Ben Lockspeiser until his appointment as chief physicist at the Wool Industries Research Association in 1938. Since that time his special interest has been the adsorption of water vapour by textile fibres. After studying the simultaneous propagation of heat and water vapour through hygroscopic textiles, which provided a clear indication of the physical properties associated with the warmth of clothing, he made an important contribution to the theory of water adsorption by textile fibres by giving the first statistical derivation of Brunauer, Emmett and Teller's adsorption isotherm. More recently, he has devoted his energies to water-repellency, and his elegant work in this field, by directing attention to the importance of surface structure, has served to explain several unusual phenomena associated with plant and animal surfaces. For these and other investigations he was awarded in 1946 the Warner Memorial Medal for investigations in textile technology. Dr. Cassie succeeds Mr. B. H. Wilsdon as director of research during a period of expansion of the buildings and equipment of the Research Association, and their previous close association will ensure continuity of development during a critical phase in the history of the wool textile industry.

Research on Cortisone and Related Substances at Oxford

IN *Nature* of December 31, p. 1117, it was announced that the Nuffield Foundation had made a grant to the University of Cambridge for research on adrenocorticotropin in pursuance of the special interest it has shown in work bearing on the causes and cure of rheumatism. A parallel grant, of £10,000, has also been made to the University of Oxford for a study of the synthesis of cortisone and its analogues in the Dysor Perrins Laboratory under the supervision of Sir Robert Robinson. Although it is probable, as Sir Robert has himself stated in his presidential address to the Royal Society (*Nature*, December 17, p. 1025), that synthesis of Li's peptide hydrolysate of adrenocorticotropic hormone offers the better approach, the attack on cortisone itself must also be made. The problem is one of great difficulty, and the preparation of cortisone has hitherto been effected only from material of natural origin, such as the desoxycholic acid of bile. This is hopeless for large-scale working and is said to require no less than thirty-five stages. Synthesis from a plant sapogenin, namely, sarmenogenin, about halves the number of stages, but this also is an unattractive proposition. The complete synthesis seems a more or less hopeless quest, but it is hoped at Oxford to make two kinds of substitutes. The first would be a near analogue such as might result from work among molecules rather closely related to cortisone. The second would be an analogue in which the cortisone structure is simulated in a much simpler structure. In other words, one objective of research is to find the substance that will bear the relation to cortisone that stilboestrol bears to oestradiol. The feasibility of this cannot be assessed at this time, because we do not know how narrowly specific may be the constitutional-physiological relationship.

Tsetse Control in the Gold Coast

DR. KENNETH MORRIS has been appointed director of the newly established Tsetse Control Department, Gold Coast; this Department has arisen out of the trypanosomiasis campaign, which was an offshoot of