

A Danish vessel, the *Kista Dan*, designed for navigation in the Greenland seas, has been chartered as a transport. As this vessel has also to relieve the Heard Island staff during the same antarctic cruise, the party to be established on the mainland will comprise not more than nine or ten men.

This antarctic mainland party will undertake during 1954 reconnaissance operations preparatory, it is hoped, to more extended developments in succeeding years. Scientific operations during the first year of occupation will be concerned mainly with geographical land exploration, geology and meteorology.

It is anticipated that the shore station will be established on the MacRobertson Land coast, where several suitable sites are known. Two Auster aircraft will be taken on the *Kista Dan*. Shore operations will be undertaken with the aid of mechanical transport, 'weesels' and with dog-drawn sledges. The sledge dogs have been under training at Heard Island.

Robert G. Dovers, a son of George Dovers of the Queen Mary Land party of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, is to be leader. For the work ahead he has already had good experience, as he was cartographer to the Heard Island party of occupation during 1948 and continued thereafter an active member of the expedition staff. Dovers as observing officer for A.N.A.R.E. at the invitation of the commander of the French expedition, spent the year 1952 in Adelie Land gaining first-hand information in sledging operations.

Attached to Dovers's party during 1954 will be a French representative as observer.

The Planning Committee expects to extend greatly the scientific programme of the mainland station during subsequent years. Ice-cap seismic-sounding will then receive special attention.

reflected in his work and in his wide and changing interests. He combined research and advice in a manner that enhanced the value of both, and published nearly one hundred scientific and semi-popular articles on mycology and plant diseases, half of which were concerned with diseases of cereals and fungicidal treatment of cereal and other seeds. His early research was carried out on fruit tree diseases, notably apple scab; but he became increasingly interested in the rusts and smuts of cereals, particularly following on an exchange of posts for twelve months during 1930-31 with Dr. Craigie of the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory in Winnipeg. Shortly after his return from Canada he and Dr. J. R. Booser began an intensive study of the fungicidal action of mercury compounds. As a result of this and subsequent work, Dillon-Weston's name will long be linked with the advances made in fungicidal seed treatment in Britain. But he also investigated diseases of potato, sugar beet, clover, beans and other crops that came to his notice during his advisory work. He was interested in the theoretical as well as the strictly practical side, and his contributions ranged from the effect of ultra-violet radiation on fungus spores to the significance of 'black spot' in eggs.

His spare-time hobbies were many and varied, but mycology crept into most of them. When an enthusiastic airman, he studied the fungus flora of the upper air; later, as an expert glass-blower, he made many beautiful glass models of fungi; and as an artist he painted plant diseases, designed posters and film strips, directed films on potato blight and cereal seed disinfection and, with Ann Murray's assistance, issued pictorial life-cycles for many pathogenic fungi. In 1948 he published three popular booklets on diseases of farm and vegetable crops, and his book "The Plant in Health and Disease", written in conjunction with Dr. R. E. Taylor, appeared the same year. He was married and is survived by a widow and two children. W. C. MOORE

## OBITUARIES

### Dr. W. A. R. Dillon-Weston

WILLIAM ALASTAIR ROYAL DILLON-WESTON, chief plant pathologist in the eastern province of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, died in Cambridge on August 20, at the age of fifty-four. A West Countryman by birth, he was educated at Bristol Grammar School and St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where, after gaining honours in Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos, he took a diploma in agriculture in 1922. Shortly afterwards he was appointed by the University as one of the provincial advisory mycologists to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, stationed at the School of Agriculture, Cambridge. His subsequent working life of nearly thirty years was spent in serving the farming community of East Anglia, for although he left the University for the National Agricultural Advisory Service when it was established in 1946, his duties remained unchanged and his new station was but two miles from his old one. He took his M.A. in 1925 and a Ph.D. in 1929.

Dillon-Weston was a sensitive artist, full of stimulating and occasionally unusual ideas, kindly disposed to others, hospitable, and always ready to give a helping hand. Yet his restless impetuosity and sense of the dramatic, together with a tendency to brook no interference with his affairs, at times induced exasperation even among those who knew and admired him most. This conflict of qualities was

### Mr. T. Rayment

THE death, in his eighty-ninth year, of Thomas Rayment removes one of the last survivors of that group of pioneers who at the turn of the century were establishing a livelier and more liberal conception of the training of teachers, in association—precarious at first—with the newer universities. Others among them were John Adams, and later Percy Nunn, at the London Day Training College, and J. W. Adamson at King's College in London, J. J. Findlay in Manchester, James Welton in Leeds and Mark Wright in Newcastle.

The greater part of Rayment's working life was concerned with teacher training, first for fifteen years as professor of education at Cardiff, and then for twenty-two years at Goldsmiths' College in New Cross, London. As vice-principal on the men's side and later as warden of the College, he had much to do with the development of that anomalous and adventurous institution, in which the so-called Day Training Department was advantageously part of a larger whole. Among his achievements was the establishment of general degree courses in arts and science for a proportion (about one-fifth) of the students in the Training Department, a number of members of the College staff being 'recognized teachers' of the University of London.