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Editors: M. ELISABETH SHARPE, National Institute for Research
in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9AT

A. K. MARTIN, The Hannah Research Institute, Ayr
KA6 5HL

Assistant Editors: A. T. ANDREWS, B. F. BONE, L. W. PHIPPS

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Dr B. G. F. Weitz, O.B.E., D.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

Dr B. G. F. Weitz, Director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying since 1967, has been appointed Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; he succeeded Sir Charles Pereira on 1 December 1977. In this extremely responsible position Dr Weitz is in charge of those sections of the Ministry providing scientific advice on its policies and for the new role, assigned to the Ministry by the Rothschild Proposals, of commissioning and financing the major segment of agricultural research.

Before moving to Shinfield Dr Bernard Weitz worked at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine for 20 years. He was head of the Serum Department from 1952 to 1967 and made outstanding contributions in the field of tropical diseases transmitted by insect vectors and on the production of tetanus and diphtheria antitoxins. He received the O.B.E. in 1961 in recognition of his work for the Ministry of Overseas Development, especially in the field of trypanosomiasis.

During his years at Shinfield Dr Weitz was responsible for many developments in the administration of the Institute, in its research programmes and in buildings. Changes he introduced have in many instances anticipated the requirements of the new era of research accountability. His innovations have led to a strong, integrated research policy and a thriving community working as teams to a greater extent than ever before. He also encouraged closer collaboration with other stations, especially the Hannah Institute. On the material side he has left the Institute with a phased development plan that will stand the test of time.

In the International field, Dr Weitz has been an active member of the International Dairy Federation, acting in 1977 as President of Commission A, Production, Hygiene and Quality of Milk.

Colleagues in Dairy Research wish Bernard Weitz well on his move to Whitehall and can be grateful to him for the contributions he has made whilst at Shinfield.

C. C. BALCH