

## **WELCOME**

**Dr Noel Wright, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O. (*Faculty Provost*)**

**M**Y DUTY here is on behalf of the College, to welcome both you and our speakers, and to introduce your chairman for today, Professor Dick, a virologist of international repute who left here only six months ago to become professor of pathology at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Professor G. W. A. Dick, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. (*Professor of pathology, The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, University of London*)**

**E**ARLY diagnosis really spells 'prevention', and this is becoming more and more important and more and more acceptable to general practitioners. When I began to study medicine 'prevention' was rather a dirty word, but now most of us, especially general practitioners, are appreciating the importance of this in all our work.

When I was small, I was told that the Chinese used to pay their doctors to keep them well. I used to repeat this; though I have never been able to check on the truth of the statement, it is certainly a very enlightened one. When man is ill, his main concern is to get well; but when he is well he gives very little thought, very little money, and very little consideration to the maintenance of his health. Indeed, the general practitioner may in the past have paid little attention to the maintenance of the health of his patient or of the community. Recently much more attention has been given to this and to the problem of early