

tion of weeds blocking the canals and drains of the Nile Delta. With the help of two of his assistants, he undertook to investigate for the Ministry of Public Works this serious interference with the system of irrigation.

As a teacher and organiser of research Lewis was most successful, as can be gathered from the rapid growth of his Department and from the fact that many of his students stayed on to prepare for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees by research. During the earlier years of his stay in Egypt, the Faculty of Science was housed in an old palace at Abbassia between Cairo and Heliopolis, but for his growing department a new and more spacious laboratory was planned at Giza, the main site of the University (*Nature*, July 13, p. 43). With infinite tact and patience Lewis overcame all the difficulties this proposal involved and he now leaves the Botanical Department adequately housed for the accommodation of about 1,200 students and the large staff of lecturers and demonstrators. Fortunately, during the last few years Lewis has had the help of another professor, Prof. Y. S. Sabet, who has been a most loyal colleague. With both his students and his staff Lewis has been deservedly popular. Thus Prof. Lewis can now look back on his ten years of hard work in Cairo with complete, as well as pleasurable, satisfaction, and perhaps that has enabled him, in spite of a trying climate and war-time conditions, to retain abundant physical and mental energy.

#### Botany at University College of Science, Calcutta Prof. S. P. Agharkar

PROF. SHANKAR PURUSOTTAM AGHARKAR, of the University College of Science, Calcutta, has retired after thirty-two years of service. Prof. Agharkar was appointed Ghose professor of botany in 1914 and deputed to Germany for further studies. In Berlin he studied under A. Engler, L. Diels, G. Haberlandt and others and obtained the doctorate of the University in 1919. In the meantime, with the inauguration of the Post-Graduate Department of the University of Calcutta, the palatial residential building of the late Sir Tarak Nath Palit at Ballygunge was converted into the Biological Laboratory and Prof. Paul Brühl was placed in charge of the Botany Department. He equipped it on a large scale in different branches of botany and initiated research work by students at the University. Prof. Agharkar returned to the University in 1920. In 1929 he took complete charge of the Department after the retirement of Prof. Brühl. From then onwards, Agharkar succeeded in increasing the number of members of the teaching staff for the different branches of botany, so that to-day facilities for research in mycology, cytogenetics, physiology and palaeobotany, etc., are available in the laboratory, and much good work has been published.

Throughout his career, Prof. Agharkar has played a prominent part in the different scientific societies of India: he presided over the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1924; he was president of the Indian Botanical Society in 1934; hon. secretary of the Indian Society of Soil Science (1935-40); president of the Botanical Society of Bengal (1939-42); president of the Indian Ecological Society (1944-46); biological secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal (1943-44). He has been a member of the Committees of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research since 1930, of the Indian Central

Jute Committee since its establishment, of the governing body of the Indian Research Fund Association 1939-42. He played a prominent part in organising the scientific activities of the two well-known All India scientific organisations, namely, the Indian Science Congress Association as its general secretary from 1924 until 1934 and the National Institute of Sciences of India as its honorary secretary during 1935-45.

#### Prof. P. C. Sarbadhikari

PROF. P. C. SARBADHIKARI, who succeeds Prof. Agharkar in the Ghose professorship of botany at the University College of Science, Calcutta, is a former pupil of the late Sir John Bretland Farmer, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where he obtained the degree of D.Sc. in the University of London and won distinction as a research student. His original work has been mainly cytological, and in this field he has made notable contributions to our knowledge of the life-histories of fungi, ferns and flowering plants. Both as a student and while on leave as a teacher at Colombo he made wide contacts, by working at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at the John Innes Horticultural Institution during the time of Bateson, at the Jodrell Laboratory with Miss Digby, and in Paris where he worked under Guillermond. For many years associated with the University of Ceylon, first as a lecturer and later as professor of botany, Sarbadhikari returns with a long and varied experience to the University of Calcutta where he had first graduated a quarter of a century ago.

#### Civil Engineering at King's College, London: Prof. A. D. Ross

DR. A. D. ROSS, who will succeed Prof. C. H. Lobban in the University of London chair of civil engineering at King's College (see *Nature*, July 20, p. 91), graduated at Edinburgh in 1929. After some years in professional civil engineering on railway and road construction, he returned to the University of Edinburgh as an assistant in the Engineering Department under the late Sir. T. Hudson Beare. He left Edinburgh to serve for a time as an education officer with the Air Ministry, and since 1935 he has held the appointment of lecturer in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at King's College, London. Dr. Ross's main interest has been in the field of concrete and reinforced concrete, and he has studied especially the non-elastic deformations in this material and their effects on the stress distribution in structures. His earlier work was concerned with an analysis of the numerous factors controlling creep, and he has devoted attention to the influence of the ratio of surface area to volume on the magnitude and distribution of shrinkage. Subsequent work has been concerned with the application of the knowledge of creep and shrinkage to reinforced concrete structures, and he has obtained solutions to a variety of problems in the distribution of stress by means of an idealized Voigt model. The results of his researches have been communicated in papers published by the Institution of Civil Engineers and other technical bodies.

#### International Federation of University Women

THE International Federation of University Women is holding its twenty-sixth Council meeting—the first since the War—at Crosby Hall, Chelsea, by

invitation of the British Federation of University Women, during July 27–August 1. Crosby Hall, which was requisitioned during the War, is re-opening as an international hall of residence and club for university women on August 6, immediately after the Council meeting. A large number of countries will be represented at the Council, including the Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. At a discussion meeting: "Bridging the Gap—1940 to 1945" on Sunday, July 28, three speakers will describe the experiences of university women during the War in the occupied, non-occupied and neutral countries respectively; and on July 30, Prof. Lise Meitner will give a public lecture on "Atoms and Atomic Energy" at Chatham House. The International Federation of University Women, which was founded in 1919 to promote understanding and friendship between university women of different nationalities, and thus to develop co-operation between their countries, had in 1939 a membership through its affiliated associations of nearly 80,000; there has been a considerable growth in membership during the war years, the estimated total being now about 94,000. The greatest proportionate increase has been recorded in the associations of the liberated countries. Since the liberation, several schemes have been launched by different national associations, including the British Federation, to help university women in the liberated countries to recuperate after the strain of enemy occupation, and to resume their professional careers and intellectual life.

D.D.T. <sup>5k</sup>

1.1-bis-(4 chlorophenyl)-2.2.2.-trichloroethane, produced in Switzerland in the early years of the War, was the first synthetic contact insecticide which could rival in efficiency and cost the vegetable products pyrethrum and derris. Information about it reached Great Britain and the United States at a time when the world shortage of pyrethrum, combined with increasing demands from the armies of the United Nations, was causing great anxiety among those responsible for military hygiene. On both sides of the Atlantic official committees of experts were convened to advise and to co-ordinate research. In Great Britain most of these activities were centred in the Insecticides Development Panel of the Ministry of Production under the chairmanship of Sir Ian Heilbron. The work of these committees largely resolved itself into the development of applications of D.D.T. for the special purposes of controlling mosquitoes, flies, lice and other insects of military importance. The results of investigations and trials were circulated in numerous reports produced in Britain, the Dominions and the United States, and freely interchanged. Many of the reports were at the time marked 'Secret' or 'Confidential' and the information appearing in the popular press was apt to be highly coloured or inaccurate. Some of these reports have since been published; but the main results, both published and unpublished, have now been brought together in the form of a pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Supply, entitled "Some Properties and Applications of D.D.T." (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 6d. net). This pamphlet includes a brief summary of some of the agricultural and horticultural uses of D.D.T.

## Research on Rodent Control

THE Department of Animal Health of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, has accepted the offer of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare to endow a research studentship for work in rodent ecology, the object of such work being the search for humane and efficient methods of controlling rodent populations; and Miss Winifred Maisie Phillips will be the first holder of the studentship. The grant (£180 for the research student and up to £170 for travelling and subsistence expenses) has been made for one year in the first instance, but it is understood that the Federation is prepared to continue the support for up to three years should the results justify this. It is anticipated that the greater part of the field experimentation will be carried out on territory covered by the West Wales Field Society, to which the Federation has made an initial grant of £150 for the current year. The programme of work now envisaged falls into three parts: (a) A survey of the mammalian fauna of the islands visited by the West Wales Field Society and of selected mainland territory. The survey of the islands was suggested by Mr. Charles Elton and the estimates made should form the basis of future studies upon the effects of certain treatments. (b) Research on humane poisons for rats. This work follows from the Conference held at Oxford on May 10, 1945, between members of the staff of the Bureau of Animal Population and nominees of the Federation. (c) The control of rabbits with special reference to surface-dwelling rabbits in woodlands. Preliminary ecological work upon the rabbit was carried out before the War at the Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford, by Mr. H. N. Southern, with the aid of a grant from the Federation. The special study of surface-dwelling rabbits in woodlands was also suggested by Mr. Elton, and it is expected that suitable territory for investigation will be found on farms operated by, or associated with, the Department of Animal Health of University College, Aberystwyth.

## The Carlsberg Laboratory

WE are pleased to announce the resumption of the receipt of the *Comptes Rendus* of the Carlsberg Laboratory, published in Copenhagen. The Chemical Section, covering the period 1940–45, comprises twenty-eight parts, and it is not possible to summarize such a large amount of material. It is hoped, however, to deal with some of the papers in due course. The following may be mentioned: K. Linderstrøm-Lang and C. F. Jacobsen on the number of peptide bonds in insulin (23, No. 13), and on the properties of 2-methyl-thiazoline and their relation to the protein problem (23, No. 20); A. Søbørg Ohlsen on the histochemistry of the stomach (23, No. 21); A. Grønwall on the solubility of lactoglobulin (24, Nos. 8–11); K. Linderstrøm-Lang on solutions of diffusion equations (24, No. 13); H. Holter and K. Linderstrøm-Lang on the theory of the Cartesian diver (24, Nos. 17–18) and E. Zeuthen on a Cartesian diver micro-respirometer (24, No. 19).

## Commonwealth Fund Fellowships Awards

The Fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Fund of New York to British graduates for tenure in American universities have now been resumed after interruption by the War, and the Committee of Award has made the following appointments for