

led to the degree of D.Phil. The war years were spent at Rothamsted Experimental Station, where his principal concern was with sewage sludge as a soil amendment. After a short period of work for the Medical Research Council, he proceeded to Tanganyika, where he organized scientific research in connexion with the ill-fated groundnut scheme of the Overseas Food Corporation. When the scheme was wound up, Prof. Bunting moved to the Sudan, where he took responsibility for setting up a new research station at Tozi, with the view of developing field crops in that area. Prof. Bunting's wide experience in large-scale field experimentation, and in applied plant physiology and ecology, should stand him in good stead in his new post at Reading. It should also ensure the continued broadening of his Department's interests which has been apparent in recent years. There is little doubt that tropical crops and conditions will occupy a prominent place in the teaching programme under his leadership, and one may expect the Department to continue as a valuable nursery for workers in agricultural research overseas.

The Kalinga Prize: Prof. George Gamow

THE Kalinga Prize for the popularization of science, offered annually by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has been awarded for 1956 to Prof. George Gamow, of the University of Colorado at Boulder. The Kalinga Prize, presented by Mr. B. Patnaik, a director of a foundation for the economic, social and cultural progress of the Indian State of Orissa, is valued at £1,000. Prof. George Gamow was born on March 4, 1904, at Odessa, and became an American citizen in 1939. He studied physics at the University of Leningrad and later was associated with the Institute of Theoretical Physics of the University of Copenhagen, the University of Cambridge and the Institut Pierre Curie in Paris. He also served as a professor at the University of Leningrad. After having taught physics during 1934-56 at the George Washington University at Washington, D.C., Prof. Gamow has just been appointed professor of physics at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Prof. Gamow is serving or has served as scientific adviser to a number of major organizations, including the Bureau of Ordnance, Department of the Navy; the Applied Physics Laboratory and the Operational Research Office of Johns Hopkins University; the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California; the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board; and Convair, San Diego, Cal. He is well known for his scientific research, which has led to more than a hundred publications in such fields as the theory of radioactive decay and a model of an atomic nucleus, relativistic cosmology and the origin of chemical elements, and the theory of protein synthesis. Prof. Gamow, however, has not devoted his scientific career solely to research and teaching. He has also become well known as the author of some ten books and a large number of articles in the field of science popularization. Although they often treat such subjects as the theory of relativity or the quantum theory, his works combine an accurate presentation of scientific facts with an easy, good-humoured style.

Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh : Dr. P. J. Flory

SINCE the retirement earlier this year of Dr. E. R. Weidlein as president of the Mellon Institute of

Industrial Research, Pittsburgh (see *Nature*, April 21, p. 733), a new post has been established, that of executive director of research, and Dr. Paul J. Flory, professor of chemistry and acting chairman of the Department of Chemistry, Cornell University, has been appointed the first holder. The post carries the responsibility of guiding the whole field of investigation in the Institute, and for this Dr. Flory is very well suited, his career to date being divided almost exactly between academic and industrial research. After graduating from Manchester (Ind.) College, followed by postgraduate work in physical chemistry at the Ohio State University, Dr. Flory spent four years (1934-38) in research on synthetic fibres, synthetic rubbers and other polymeric substances at the duPont Experimental Station, Wilmington, Del. For the next two years he was engaged in teaching and research in the Basic Science Laboratory of the University of Cincinnati, and then, during 1940-43, was a research chemist with the Standard Oil Development Co., Elizabeth, N.J. Following this, he was head of fundamental research for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio, and then in 1948 he went to Cornell University to direct graduate research in polymer chemistry. Dr. Flory's book, "Principles of Polymer Chemistry" (1953), is an authoritative work in this field. Besides his work on high polymers, however, he has carried out investigations in photochemistry, chemical reaction kinetics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. Dr. Flory is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and holder of the Joseph Sullivant Medal (1954) of the Ohio State University, the Leo Hendrik Baekeland Award (1947) of the American Chemical Society, and the Colwyn Medal (1954) of the Institution of the Rubber Industry (Great Britain).

Perkin Centenary Celebrations in Bradford and Leeds

THE West Riding Section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists will be celebrating during October 31-November 3 the centenary this year of W. H. Perkin's discovery of the dyestuff mauveine. The celebrations will commence with two lectures: the first will be given on October 31 at 7.30 p.m. by Prof. John Read in the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, his subject being "The Life and Work of Perkin"; and on the following day, also at 7.30 p.m., Dr. C. M. Whittaker will give a lecture in the Victoria Hotel, Bradford, on "Early Stages in the Renaissance of the British Dyemaking Industry: Tales from Turnbridge, Huddersfield, 1899-1920". During November 1-3 an exhibition will be held in the Technical College, Great Horton Road, Bradford, which will illustrate the developments in dyestuffs and closely related products from the time of Perkin's discovery of mauveine to the present day and also the modern uses of dyestuffs. On November 2 the West Riding Section will hold a dinner and dance in the Victoria Hotel, Bradford. Further information on all these events can be obtained from the Society of Dyers and Colourists, 19 Piccadilly, Bradford 1.

Royal Society Antarctic Expedition

THE Royal Society announces that the War Office has agreed to the appointment of Colonel Robin Smart as leader of the main party of the Royal Society International Geophysical Year Antarctic Expedition until January 1958. The main party of about twenty will leave London Docks on