

News and Views

New Fellows of the Royal Society

THE Council of the Royal Society has agreed to recommend for election into the Society the following seventeen candidates: Dr. N. K. Adam, research chemist, University College, London; Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, Quain professor of physics, University of London; Sir Frederick Banting, professor of medical research, University of Toronto; Prof. S. P. Bedson, Goldsmiths' Company's professor of bacteriology, London Hospital Medical School; Mr. E. J. Bowen, fellow of University College, Oxford; Mr. G. E. Briggs, lecturer in plant physiology, University of Cambridge; Prof. H. Graham Cannon, professor of zoology, University of Manchester; Prof. W. E. le Gros Clark, Dr. Lee's professor of anatomy, University of Oxford; Prof. J. S. Foster, professor of physics, McGill University, Montreal; Dr. A. L. Hall, lately assistant director of the Geological Survey of the Union of South Africa; Dr. W. H. Hatfield, Brown-Firth Research Laboratory, Sheffield; Dr. J. de Graaff Hunter, lately of the Survey of India; Dr. B. A. Keen, Rothamsted Experimental Station; Prof. R. A. Peters, Whitley professor of biochemistry, University of Oxford; Prof. J. Read, professor of chemistry, University of St. Andrews; Dr. R. N. Salaman, director of the Potato Virus Research Station, Cambridge; Dr. R. Stoneley, lecturer in mathematics, University of Cambridge.

New Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

At the ordinary meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on March 4, the following ordinary fellows were elected: Dr. J. L. Brownlie, chief medical officer, Department of Health for Scotland; Dr. R. S. Clark, scientific superintendent, Fishery Board for Scotland; Lieut.-Col. S. H. Cowan, lecturer in forestry engineering, University of Edinburgh; Mr. C. F. Davidson, geologist, H.M. Geological Survey of Great Britain; Mr. Maxwell Davidson, lecturer in heat engines and thermodynamics, University of Edinburgh; Dr. B. N. Desai, assistant meteorologist, Government of India; Dr. R. Grant, demonstrator, Zoology Department, University of Leeds; Dr. A. M. M. Grierson, senior assistant medical officer of health, Manchester; Dr. A. C. W. Hutchinson, dean of the Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School; Dr. J. H. Kenneth, assistant, Imperial Bureau of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Peter MacCallum, Pathology Department, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr. W. A. Mozley, Walter Rathbone Bacon scholar, Smithsonian Institution, 1931-34, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh; Mr. J. Munnoch, formerly controller, General Post Office, Edinburgh; Dr. B. Narayana, lecturer in physiology, University of Patna, India; Mr. C. S. Pichamuthu, assistant professor of geology, University of Mysore, India; Mr. T. Rowatt, director, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh; Prof. M. G. Say, Department of Electrical Engineering, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh;

Mr. Eric Stevenson, lecturer in Engineering, University of Edinburgh; Dr. J. D. Sutherland, lecturer in psychology, University of Edinburgh; Mr. J. E. Touche, Edinburgh; Sir William Whyte, solicitor, Uddingston.

Sir C. V. Boys, F.R.S.

ON Thursday next, March 14, Sir C. V. Boys—more familiarly known as Prof. Boys, though the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him by H.M. The King at the beginning of this year—will be eighty years of age; and his friends everywhere will, we are sure, be glad to associate themselves with us in offering him a tribute of esteem and congratulation on this event. The Royal Society Club, of which Boys is the senior member, is to celebrate the occasion with a festival dinner, at which he will be presented with an album containing the autographs of members of the Club. The Club consists of a group of fellows of the Royal Society who dine together on the days of the ordinary meetings. It was formed so long ago as 1743, and its history has been related in a substantial volume by Sir Archibald Geikie entitled "Annals of the Royal Society Club", published in 1917. Benjamin Franklin was very frequently among the visitors in the latter half of the eighteenth century; and it is particularly appropriate to recall this association with the Club of the discoverer of the nature of lightning, and the recent work of Boys in the same field.

SINCE 1752, when Franklin proved that lightning was an electrical discharge, and concluded that "for the most part, in thunderstrokes it is the earth that strikes into the clouds, and not the clouds that strike into the earth", practically no experimental work on the subject had been done until our new Franklin devised his rotating lens camera for the study of the propagation of the discharge. Boys gave the first description of this ingenious instrument in an article entitled "Progressive Lightning" in *NATURE* of November 20, 1926 (118, 749), and its use in South Africa by Dr. E. C. Halliday, Dr. B. J. F. Schonland and Mr. H. Collens has shown that the majority of the lightning strokes examined consist of a dart-like downward-moving leader stroke, which may be described as an electron avalanche, followed immediately upon arrival at the ground by a more intense upward moving main stroke along thermally ionised channels. The device by which this new knowledge has been secured represents, like Boys's gas calorimeter, the production and use of quartz fibres for the determination of the gravitational constant and other purposes, the photography of rifle bullets and the study of soap bubbles, the application of most original conceptions to experimental inquiry. It may be trite to say that whatever subject Boys has touched he has adorned, but it is certainly true that his contributions to classical experimental physics will go down in the history of science among the highest achievements of a brilliant period.