

'shivering ague' to an enigmatic nocturnal 'miasm'. In that year Laveran described the malaria parasite. His discovery was confirmed and amplified by Marchiafava and Celli of Rome, who observed amoeboid movements of the plasmodium within the red blood corpuscles and recorded an instance of the experimental transmission of malaria in man. A translation of Marchiafava and Bignami's researches on "Summer-autumn malarial fevers" was published by the New Sydenham Society in 1894. Born in Rome on January 3, 1847, Ettore Marchiafava in 1883 became professor of morbid anatomy and in 1916 of clinical medicine, remaining actively interested in medical research until his death on October 22, 1935, at the age of eighty-eight. He was the grand old man of Italian medicine, a leader of international science, and founder of the first Italian anti-tuberculosis sanatorium at Rome. Marchiafava was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in the year of its centenary, and one of his last publications was a communication in 1933 to its Section of Neurology on degeneration of the brain in chronic alcoholism. Distinguished in appearance and most approachable, he was a fascinating lecturer who made the dead live again as he recounted their clinical story and correlated it with the post-mortem findings.

#### Australian Guided Projectiles Range

SUBJECT to a satisfactory agreement between the two Governments on the financial and other aspects of the undertaking, the Australian Government has accepted the British Government's proposal that a firing range and associated technical facilities should be set up in Australia for experiments with guided projectiles and other long-range weapons. Lieut.-General J. F. Evetts, formerly senior military adviser to the Ministry of Supply, has left for Australia to collaborate with the authorities there in the detailed planning and execution of the project. In view of the numerous representations received, the Australian Guided Projectiles Committee and the director of Native Affairs will report to the Australian Cabinet to ensure the safety and welfare of aborigines in the proposed range area.

The Hon. J. J. Dedman, Australian Minister for Defence, made a statement in the House of Representatives on November 22 on the project for a guided missiles range and technical establishment in Australia. He emphasized that the scheme is a joint venture of Great Britain and Australia. The firing point will be in the vicinity of Mount Eda in South Australia, between the Transcontinental and North-South Railways. The direction of the centre line of the range is such that, if prolonged, it would pass roughly midway between Broome and Port Headland in Western Australia; that is, in the middle of the Ninety Mile Beach. The first step is to build a short range of about 300 miles, designed to be capable of extension at a later date, and to reserve the necessary area. The Government has also approved of the reservation of the Salisbury Munitions Factory for use, to the extent required, for the developmental work to be undertaken in Australia. Research and development on guided missiles has been under way for some time in Great Britain, whereas, so far, Australia has done no work in this field. Hence for some considerable time, by far the greater portion of the scientific staff required for the trials or research and development associated with them must be drawn from Britain. The capital

cost of the range head and the first 300 miles of the range is £3,000,000, and the eventual annual maintenance cost of the range project is £3,000,000. If the development work is expanded, considerable additional capital and maintenance expenditure will be involved.

Except for a few pastoral leases at the firing point and in South Australia, the Central Aboriginal Reserves and a few more pastoral leases adjacent to the Ninety Mile Beach in Western Australia, the area of the range and that which it is proposed to reserve for eventual extensions is largely uninhabited. For some years the range will come short of the Central Australian Aboriginal Reserves. During this period, it is expected that accuracy of control will be largely perfected; hence the risk to the aborigines, when the range is extended, will be negligible, for the average density of population is probably about only one native in every 50-100 square miles. Until the control is perfected, none but non-explosive missiles will be fired, possibly at the rate of one a week. A very limited number of observation posts may have to be established along the line of fire in the aboriginal reserve; in this connexion the director of native affairs and other authorities concerned in aborigine welfare are to be consulted.

#### Fire Research in Great Britain

H.M. GOVERNMENT, through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has decided to establish a comprehensive Fire Research Organisation, jointly with the Fire Offices' Committee. A Fire Research Board has been appointed jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Fire Offices' Committee. The members of the Board are: Lord Falmouth (chairman), head of Fire Research ("F") Division, formerly Ministry of Home Security, now D.S.I.R., past member of the Advisory Council and Executive Committee of the National Physical Laboratory, and of the Fuel Research Board; Dr. S. F. Barclay, head of the Research Department of Mather and Platt, Ltd., manufacturers of fire-fighting equipment; Mr. J. W. Berry, general manager, Royal Insurance Co., Ltd., member of the Fire Offices' Committee; Mr. E. L. Bird, editor of the *Journal of the Royal Institution of British Architects*, member of the Joint Committee of the Building Research Station and the Fire Offices' Committee on the Fire Grading of Buildings; Sir George Burt, chairman, John Mowlem and Co., Ltd., chairman of the Building Research Board and of the Interdepartmental Committee on House Construction; Dr. S. F. Dorey, chief engineer surveyor, Lloyd's Register of Shipping; Dr. P. Dunsheath, chief engineer and director, Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd.; Mr. A. J. Makins, general manager, Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd., member of Fire Offices' Committee; Air Commodore G. Powell, managing director, British Aviation Services, Ltd.; Mr. A. S. Pratten, chief officer, London Salvage Corps; Sir William Stanier, scientific adviser, Ministry of Supply, and lately scientific adviser, Ministry of Production, and chief mechanical engineer, L.M.S. Railway; Prof. D. T. A. Townend, director of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association; Mr. W. H. Tuckey, director of the Fire Offices' Committee Fire Protection Association. The members of the Board serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any organisation to which they may happen to belong.