

course of his work, he found that the jungle in Malaya remained free from malaria until clearing operations produced suitable conditions for the breeding of the vector mosquitoes. This discovery was published in a Government Paper in 1915; its importance was at once recognized, as was shown by the issue of an official prohibition of the clearing of jungle over collections of water without special permission. In India it was hailed as a "brilliant discovery".

In 1922 Strickland became the first professor of medical entomology at the recently established Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and during his seventeen years tenure of this post he was able to give a practical demonstration of the value of his discovery by enlisting the enthusiastic co-operation of the medical men, managers and agents of the tea gardens of Assam and north Bengal. The remarkable improvement in the health of the workers in these gardens is believed to have been due for the most part to the policy of maintaining a dense leafy shade over all waterways.

A problem closely studied by Strickland during his long period of fruitful work in teaching and research at Calcutta was the influence of land structure on malaria; he made a special study of the deltas of the Ganges and Brahmaputra and in 1939 published his "Deltaic Formation" (Longmans,

Green and Co.). He hoped eventually to correlate the vast amount of data that he had collected regarding the incidence of malaria in eastern India with his survey of land formation, but he was unable to complete this study because of being compelled to retire in 1939 by the superannuation rules of Government. He was then employed by the Army in organising malaria work in Burma, where the campaign was already foreseen. He finally retired from active work in 1942.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, for more than forty years president of Columbia University, aged eighty-five.

Mr. S. A. Courtauld, who built and endowed the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, and also endowed the professorship of anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital, on December 1.

Sir John Fraser, K.C.V.O., principal of the University of Edinburgh since 1944, on December 1, aged sixty-two.

Prof. Paul Monroe, professor emeritus of education in Teachers College, Columbia University, on December 6, aged seventy-nine.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Presentation of Physical Society's Awards:

#### Charles Chree Medal and Prize

At the science meeting of the Physical Society at the Science Museum on December 19, the Charles Chree Medal and Prize for 1947 will be presented to Sir Edward Appleton, who will then deliver an address entitled "Geomagnetism and the Ionosphere". Sir Edward has earned an international reputation for his work on the characteristics of the ionosphere, for which he was recently awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for 1947 (see *Nature*, November 22, p. 703).

#### Charles Vernon Boys Prize

At the same meeting the Charles Vernon Boys Prize for 1947 of the Physical Society will be awarded to Dr. C. F. Powell, reader in physics in the University of Bristol, for his development of the photographic-plate technique for the investigation of fundamental particles. Dr. Powell, who was born in 1903, carried out his first piece of research under C. T. R. Wilson at Cambridge on supersaturation in steam. In 1928 he became research assistant to Prof. A. M. Tyndall in the H. H. Wills Laboratory at Bristol, and in 1931 was appointed lecturer in physics there. His outstanding ability as an experimenter became evident in his systematic work on positive-ion emission in pure gases. Until a few years ago the Wilson cloud-chamber method was the only one used in the study of the tracks of high-speed particles, particularly if their energies were to be estimated. It occurred to Powell (and to others working independently of him) that it should be possible to make direct use of the photographic emulsion, in which the fundamental particles would have short ranges and the lengths and directions of the tracks could be measured after development of the plate. He origin-

ally used the method in the study of the processes occurring in cosmic rays. In 1938, with the aid of a Cockcroft 700-kV. generator which he had constructed at Bristol, he showed that quantitative information on nuclear processes could be obtained by this method. Since then, with the improved fine-grain emulsions produced by Ilford, Ltd., and with other facilities, he has established this technique as one of the most powerful instruments in nuclear study. It was by this technique that investigators in Joliot-Curie's laboratory discovered triple and quadruple fission in uranium nuclei. Powell himself has obtained range-energy curves for protons and other particles, and the recent discovery of new types of meson by Powell, Occhialini and Lattes has aroused world-wide interest. The presentation of the Charles Vernon Boys Prize will be followed by a brief address by Dr. Powell on the work which forms the basis of the award.

### Centenary of the Exhibition of 1851

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, Lord President of the Council, announced in the House of Commons on December 5 that the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 is to be marked by a comprehensive national display in addition to the annual British Industries Fair. It is proposed that the year 1951 should be marked by comprehensive and co-ordinated displays demonstrating British contributions to civilization, in the arts, in science and technology and in industrial design. The Central Office of Information, acting on behalf of the various research councils and other scientific bodies, is to be responsible for the presentation of science and technology. The Council of Industrial Design will take charge of an exhibition of consumer goods, civil transport, some handicraft production and displays showing the historical development of certain