

serious position caused by the continued shortage in book production, and records some increase in staff and a start on preventive repairs on the devastated portion of the building at Malet Place, London.

Spiritual Approach to Physics

UNDER the title "The Value of the Individual", Mr. F. I. G. Rawlins, in Occasional Paper No. 5 of the British Social Hygiene Council, asks physicists to look beyond their immediate pre-occupations. Physical science, he argues, arrives at a point where it can go no further; but this does not justify the assumption that there is nowhere further to go. Modern physical theory cannot (with Laplace) postulate a universe which is a self-maintaining system, about the origins or destiny of which it is superfluous to inquire. The step from physics to theology is not compulsory; but there is nothing to prevent it and a good deal to encourage it. Only when that step is taken can the universe be seen as an environment with a meaning, where human personality is able to realize itself.

Anatomy and Physiology of Acrididæ

UNDER the title of "Recent Advances in Acridology", Dr. B. P. Uvarov contributes a general survey of the literature on the anatomy and physiology of locusts and grasshoppers. It covers the period that has elapsed since the publication of the same author's book, "Locusts and Grasshoppers", in 1928. During the interval of twenty years the titles of nearly 2,500 papers, published in twelve languages, have been added to the bibliography that is kept up to date at the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London. The present survey is intended to provide a digest of all publications bearing upon anatomy and physiology. Other surveys dealing in particular with development, ecology, control, etc., will follow. The object of these digests is to further research and investigation by making the relevant literature more easily found. Particular attention has been paid to collating widely scattered data and papers that are not readily accessible. The present survey appeared, under the title given above, in the *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London*, vol. 99, Part 1, pp. 1-75, 1948, and has been reprinted as "Anti-Locust Bulletin No. 1" by the Anti-Locust Research Centre, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7. It is to be obtained in exchange from the Anti-Locust Centre, or may be purchased from the Royal Entomological Society, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7 (price £1 4s.).

Physical Society: Meeting at Edinburgh

A ONE-DAY meeting of the Physical Society will be held on February 19 at the University of Edinburgh, in the Department of Natural Philosophy. The morning session will include three papers on developments in electron focusing: T. H. Braid and H. O. W. Richardson will describe tests of a wide-angle β -particle spectrometer; R. E. Siday and D. A. Silverston will discuss tests of a prism spectrograph; and A. N. Barker, Prof. N. Feather and H. O. W. Richardson will describe an emission microscope for photo-electron autoradiography. A paper on the use of proportional counters to investigate β -disintegration will be given by S. C. Curran, and a paper on electrons as nuclear projectiles by B. Touschek. In the afternoon session, subjects to be discussed are: a new approach to the theory of elementary particles, by Prof. M. Born and H. S.

Green; film transport in liquid helium II, by Prof. J. F. Allen; a new photo-electric amplifier, by R. V. Jones; and long-range molecular forces, by J. Iball.

Announcements

SIR HAROLD SPENCER JONES, Astronomer Royal, has been awarded the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal for 1949 of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, for distinguished services to astronomy.

PROF. P. M. S. BLACKETT, Langworthy professor of physics in the University of Manchester, has been awarded the Dalton Medal of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of our knowledge of physics. This Medal has been awarded on six previous occasions, as follows: Edward Schunck (1898), Sir Henry Roscoe (1900), Prof. Osborne Reynolds (1913), Sir Ernest (Lord) Rutherford (1919), Sir J. J. Thomson (1931), Sir Lawrence Bragg (1942). The presentation will take place at a *conversazione* with which the Society will open the new session in October 1949.

THE first award of the "Medal for Service in Agriculture and Forestry" of the Institute for International Relations in Agriculture and Forestry in Prague has been made to Prof. Dontcho Kostoff, director of the Institute for Applied Biology and Organic Development at the Academy of Sciences, Sofia, and professor of plant breeding and evolution in the Faculty of Agronomy, for his monograph, "Cytogenetics of the Genus *Nicotiana* (1941/1943)", on the ground that it is the most noteworthy book in the Slavonic languages published during the last few years.

MR. J. W. TULLO has retired from the post of chief chemist to Messrs. Arthur Guinness, Son and Co., Ltd., Dublin, with whom he has been associated for the past fifty years. He has been succeeded by Mr. J. Andrews.

DR. F. A. FOX, deputy director of the British Welding Research Association, has been appointed deputy technical manager of Messrs. H. J. Enthoven and Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.3.

THE Fifty-fifth Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für innere Medizin is due to take place in Wiesbaden during April 25-28, 1949. The chief themes for discussion will be: protein exchange; chemotherapy; circulation problems; and psychosomatic medicine and neuritis.

A COURSE of six lectures on "Electronics in Industry" will be given at the Electrical Engineering Department of The Polytechnic, 309 Regent Street, London, W.1, by Mr. L. I. Farran. The lectures will be given on Fridays at 6.30 p.m., commencing February 4, 1949, and the fee for the course is 10s.

THE University of Oxford has accepted the generous gift from the American Cyanamid Company, Stamford, Connecticut, of a Perkin Elmer infra-red spectrometer with recorder and accessories. This has been installed in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. H. W. Thompson, and will be used for spectroscopic investigations of a fundamental character, and particularly with regard to problems of biochemical importance. In the latter connexion it is hoped to undertake co-operative work between several of the University laboratories at Oxford.