

It is proposed to hold a meeting of the Physical Society during October, when both Mr. D. W. Fry and Dr. G. P. S. Occhialini will describe some of their researches.

#### Applied Mathematics at Manchester :

Prof. S. Goldstein, F.R.S.

PROF. SIDNEY GOLDSTEIN, who has recently retired from the chair of applied mathematics in the University of Manchester, will shortly be taking up the post of professor of applied mathematics in the College of Technology, Haifa. Between his departure from England and his arrival in Israel, Prof. Goldstein is lecturing in the United States. He expects his duties in Haifa will be arduous for some time to come, and is facing the future in the spirit of a missionary for education and scientific research; he takes with him the goodwill of his considerable circle of friends in Britain. Prof. Goldstein has inspired younger men to follow in his footsteps, and, at Manchester, has established an important school of mathematical aerodynamics. His special interest in aeronautics started at the beginning of the Second World War, when he joined the staff of the Aerodynamics Division of the National Physical Laboratory. While there, he greatly extended the utility of calculations giving a first approximation to the forces on aeroplane wings. At the request of the Aeronautical Research Council, he undertook the editorship of two books on modern developments in fluid mechanics, and these are now in great demand as standard text-books. After being a member of the Aeronautical Research Council for some years, he became its chairman and guided its activities during a period of vigorous expansion. Prof. Goldstein was elected to the Royal Society in 1937, serving on its Council during 1945-47; recently he has been made a foreign member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and Letters.

#### Mr. M. J. Lighthill

MR. LIGHTHILL, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. S. Goldstein, took the mathematics tripos in the University of Cambridge during the Second World War and then worked in the Aerodynamics Division of the National Physical Laboratory on the design of aerofoil sections and on high-speed flow. On returning to Cambridge, he was elected to a fellowship at Trinity College, and, in the following year, he went to the University of Manchester as a senior lecturer in mathematics; prior to his election to the Beyer chair he was due to be appointed as a reader. Mr. Lighthill has written extensively on hydrodynamics and aerodynamics, especially on trans-sonic flow and on shock waves. At the Seventh International Congress of Applied Mechanics, held in London in 1948, he delivered one of the general lectures on "Methods for Predicting Phenomena in the High-Speed Flow of Gases". He has also written on thermo-elasticity and on the application of aerodynamics to astronomy.

#### Social Science at Birmingham :

Prof. Charles Madge

MR. CHARLES MADGE, who has been appointed to the chair of social science in the University of Birmingham as from October next, first made his name by a series of articles in the *Economic Journal* during 1940-41. Encouraged by Lord Keynes, he and a team of field-workers carried out house-to-house

visits in Coventry, Blackburn and Bristol, seeking the patterns of expenditure and saving among samples of families of different class. In 1943, he wrote an "Occasional Paper" (of 140 pages) for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, summarizing his results. He drew here upon further field-work conducted at Glasgow and Leeds, and brought out the mingling of economic and more purely sociological and psychological factors in the "propensity to save". For the same income and family composition a wide variety was found in the proportion of income saved. The high savers in Glasgow, compared to the low savers, were found to be country-born, Presbyterian, right-wing politically, and of smart and mentally bright appearance. After 1942, Mr. Madge devoted himself to the editing of *Pilot Papers*—certainly a pilot among sociological journals—and inquiries into the activities of trade union members, and into the attitudes and the use of leisure of workers interviewed at the bench. For the trade union inquiry Mr. Madge was awarded a Leverhulme research fellowship; some of his conclusions were published in P E P broadsheets and the P E P Report on British Trade Unionism. The work-bench interviews were conducted under the auspices of the University of Birmingham. In 1947 Mr. Madge became social development officer to the Stevenage Development Corporation, from which he resigned in April to become an assistant director of research in the University of Birmingham.

#### Botany at Stanford University :

Prof. William C. Steere

PROF. WILLIAM C. STEERE, head of the Department of Botany in the University of Michigan, has been appointed professor of botany in Stanford University, California, in succession to Prof. Gilbert M. Smith, who retires this year. Prof. Steere will continue a long botanical tradition carried on at Stanford by Prof. Smith and Prof. Douglas Campbell, only living member of the original Stanford faculty. One of the leading botanists in the United States, Prof. Steere's particular field of interest is bryology, and he is editor-in-chief of *The Bryologist*, official journal of the American Bryological Society. He has been a leader of scientific expeditions both in the tropics and the arctic. In 1932 he took part in the University of Michigan-Carnegie expedition to Yucatan. In 1942-43 he was a senior botanist of the Foreign Economic Administration in Colombia and the following year in Ecuador. In 1948 he was a member of an expedition into Northern Canada; and in 1949 he was a member of a U.S. Geological Survey expedition to Alaska. He is forty-two years of age.

#### United Kingdom Agricultural Representation in the United States and Canada

PROF. R. G. BASKETT, chief scientific officer of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, has been appointed agricultural attaché in Washington, in place of Mr. A. N. Duckham, who will be returning to Great Britain this month. Prof. Baskett, who is a graduate of the Universities of Reading and London, has been associated with agricultural science in Northern Ireland since 1924, when he was appointed research assistant, Chemical Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, and demonstrator in the Agricultural Chemistry Department of the Queen's University of Belfast. Since 1935 he has been professor of agricultural chemistry