

synthesis of other polycyclic systems, and is collaborating with Prof. R. P. Linstead in a general investigation of hydrogen-transfer reactions, and the mechanism of photosynthesis.

Physics at Birmingham : Prof. W. E. Burcham

DR. W. E. BURCHAM has been appointed to the chair of physics in the University of Birmingham in succession to Prof. P. B. Moon, who succeeds Prof. M. E. Oliphant as head of the Physics Department. Dr. Burcham was educated at the City of Norwich School, and was an exhibitioner and later a scholar at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1933. He was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in 1937, and became Stokes student at Pembroke College in the same year. During the Second World War he worked on centimetre-wave radar equipment at the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Malvern, and towards the end of the War spent a year at Montreal and Chalk River with the Canadian Atomic Energy Project. He returned to Cambridge as a Fellow of Selwyn College and University demonstrator in 1945, and was appointed a University lecturer in 1946. Dr. Burcham's research work has been mainly concerned with the disintegration of light nuclei under bombardment by protons and deuterons. He has been specially interested in the study of resonance phenomena, the accurate determination of disintegration energies, and, in particular, the analysis of the alpha-particles emitted in disintegration processes.

Geophysics at the Australian National University : Prof. J. C. Jaeger

PROF. J. C. JAEGER, at present professor of applied mathematics in the University of Tasmania, has been appointed professor of geophysics in the Research School of Physical Sciences of the Australian National University, Canberra, and will take up his duties early next year. Prof. Jaeger was born in 1907 and graduated from the University of Sydney with first-class honours and the University Medal in mathematics and physics. In 1928 he went to the University of Cambridge with a Barker graduate scholarship, and in 1930 took a first class and the Mayhew Prize for Applied Mathematics in the Mathematical Tripos. Until 1936, Prof. Jaeger did research at Cambridge under the late Prof. R. H. Fowler, after which he went to the University of Tasmania. In 1942 he was awarded his D.Sc. from the University of Sydney, and during 1943-44 and in 1948 he was associated with the former Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Prof. Jaeger is the author of many publications, including the widely known book "Operational Methods in Applied Mathematics", written in collaboration with Prof. H. S. Carslaw.

Physical Society's Exhibition

THE appearance of the now familiar handbook of scientific instruments, published by the Physical Society shortly before its annual exhibition, is a reminder that the exhibition, held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, will be open this year during April 6-11, excluding April 8. The excellent handbook (pp. 244+72; from the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7; 5s.+1s. postage) provides details of the dates and times of opening, a list of discourses to be given during the exhibition, and a very comprehensive and informative description of the scientific instruments shown by 154 exhibitors. It

not only provides a valuable guide to the exhibition but also serves as a reliable work of reference. The exhibition is being opened on April 6, at 10 a.m. for the Press and Fellows, and at 2 p.m. for members and visitors, by Prof. L. F. Bates, president of the Society. Four discourses are being given: April 6 at 6.15 p.m., "Electric Currents in the Sea", by Dr. G. E. R. Deacon; April 9 at 6.15 p.m., "The Age of Newton", by Dr. D. McKie; April 10 at 6.15 p.m., "Friction of Metals and Non-metals and the Influence of Surface Films", by Dr. F. P. Bowden; April 11 at 3.45 p.m., "The Light Division, N.P.L.", by Dr. L. A. Sayce. The range of exhibits covers practically every branch of physics, and the exhibitors include not only instrument makers in industry, but also workers in universities and Government research establishments. A noteworthy feature on this occasion is the exhibit of French Government research, including contributions from three organizations: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, and Office National d'Études et de Recherches Aeronautiques.

Edinburgh Meeting of the British Association

THE preliminary programme for the meeting during August 8-15 at Edinburgh of the British Association has now been issued. The meeting has been planned as the Association's contribution to the Festival of Britain, and the presidential and several of the sectional addresses have a direct relation to the occasion. The presidential address, to be delivered by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on August 8, will be entitled "The British Contribution to Science and Technology in the past Hundred Years". The names of presidents of sections and the titles of their addresses are as follows: A (Mathematics and Physics), Sir David Brunt: "A Century of Meteorology"; B (Chemistry), Sir Cyril Hinshelwood: "Chemistry at the Mid-Century"; C (Geology), Prof. W. B. R. King: "The Geology of North Europe and its Relation to Military Strategy"; D (Zoology), Dr. C. F. A. Pantin: "Organic Design"; E (Geography), Dr. O. J. R. Howarth: "The Centenary of Section E"; F (Economics), Prof. R. G. Hawtrey: "The Nature of Profit"; G (Engineering), Sir Claude Gibb: "Two Thousand Years of Engineering"; H (Anthropology), Sir Cyril Fox: "Aspects of Celtic Art in Britain"; I (Physiology), Prof. H. P. Gilding: "Body Water"; J (Psychology), Prof. C. A. Mace: "Psychology and the Laity"; K (Botany), Prof. W. Brown: "Mycology over a Century"; L (Education), Sir Hector Hetherington: "Mid-Century: Retrospect and Prospect"; M (Agriculture), Dr. E. M. Crowther: "Soil Fertility and Experimental Agriculture"; Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies, Dr. D. A. Allan: "The Scottish Scene". The Division for Social and International Relations of Science will meet on August 13 to discuss means of communication and their implications. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, British Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

New Zealand Oceanographic Committee

UNDER the auspices of the New Zealand Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a New Zealand Oceanographic Committee has been set up on which all oceanographic interests in New Zealand are represented, the committee comprising representatives of the universities, museums, Marine Department, Portobello Marine Research Station, Navy,