

chairs, a Cripps chair of metallurgy and a Cripps chair of production engineering. Pianoforte Supplies, Ltd., was founded by Mr. Cripps to produce components for the music industry. While still retaining the same trading title, the firm, under his guidance and direction, has progressed into full-scale production engineering, supplying numerous different industries with metal components in all kinds of finishes. The gift is the result of an appeal by the University to industry in the Midlands for support in its schemes for engineering studies and research. It is intended that an appointment to the Cripps chair of metallurgy should be made for the session beginning in October 1954, when a degree course in metallurgy will be instituted as had already been planned. The Senate had previously given approval in principle to a proposed degree course in production engineering, but the date from which the chair will be established will now be a matter for consideration by the University Council.

#### Dr. K. R. Ramanathan

IN commemoration of the sixtieth birthday of Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, the February number of the *Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences* (37, A, 167; 1953) contains a photograph of Dr. Ramanathan as frontispiece, an appreciation by Sir C. V. Raman, a bibliography of Dr. Ramanathan's scientific contributions, and seventeen papers mainly on meteorological subjects specially contributed by eminent meteorologists from India and other countries. Sir C. V. Raman gives a summary of Dr. Ramanathan's career and refers to the high position attained by him as a man of science, to his notable contributions in various fields of knowledge and to the leading part he has played in the development of an Indian school of meteorology. After a brief period as lecturer and research worker in physics, Dr. Ramanathan in 1925 became a government meteorologist and afterwards held posts as director of Agra Observatory, the Colaba and Alibag Observatories at Bombay, the Solar Physics Observatory at Kodai-kanal, superintendent meteorologist at Poona and officer on special duty at Delhi. In February 1948, following his retirement from government service, he joined the physical research laboratory at Ahmedabad and is now actively engaged on investigations of the physics of the upper atmosphere. Dr. Ramanathan is a Foundation Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and has served continuously for fifteen years as a member of its Council, in addition to being a vice-president during 1943-46. He was recently elected president of the International Meteorological Association. The selected list of Dr. Ramanathan's publications shows that his interests have covered terrestrial magnetism, seismology, meteorological optics and acoustics, but his outstanding contributions are in the field of study of the thermal structure and movements of the upper air. His earliest scientific paper was a letter in *Nature* (118, 337; 1926) dealing with the intensity and polarization of skylight at sunrise and sunset, and his latest, in the commemorative issue, deals with the height distribution of atmospheric ozone.

#### Materials available from the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham

THE Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, Bucks, has prepared a new catalogue, entitled "Radioactive Materials", which describes the products of the Centre. The catalogue, which was first issued in

connexion with the International Congress of Radiology held in Copenhagen during July 20-25, will be of interest to a wide range of users in the natural sciences, medicine and engineering. About six hundred radioactive appliances and compounds that are made at Amersham are listed, including a number of important materials which are new and have not previously been available in any country. They are dealt with under the separate headings of labelled compounds (carbon-14 and miscellaneous chemical compounds containing radioactive isotopes); processed radioisotopes, made by chemical separation from materials irradiated in a pile or cyclotron, or from fission products; natural radioelements; alpha- and beta-ray appliances consisting of foils, plates and wires which incorporate a radioactive isotope; gamma-ray appliances containing radium for therapeutic purposes; gamma-ray sources for radiation standards or industrial radiography; and neutron sources. Among the labelled compounds of carbon-14, of which some eighty individual species can be supplied, there is now added a complete range of amino-acids which have been prepared by biological synthesis. Another new product of interest is the fission product, caesium-137, which is likely to become important in industrial radiography, and particularly valuable for the radiotherapist is the revised list of radium appliances and the new beta-ray appliances, replacing radium plaques, for superficial therapy of the skin and of the cornea.

#### Clinical Research Board

THE Medical Research Council announces that, in accordance with the recommendations in the White Paper on "Clinical Research in Relation to the National Health Service", a Clinical Research Board has been appointed after consultation, and in agreement, with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland. The Board has been appointed for a period of three years, with the following membership: Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, emeritus professor of neurosurgery, University of Manchester (*chairman*); Prof. Dugald Baird, Midwifery Department, University of Aberdeen; Sir Henry Cohen, Department of Medicine, University of Liverpool; Prof. E. C. Dodds, Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital, London; Sir James Learmonth, Department of Surgery, University of Edinburgh; Prof. A. J. Lewis, Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, London; Prof. G. W. Pickering, Medical Unit, St. Mary's Hospital, London; Prof. R. Platt, Department of Medicine, University of Manchester; Sir James Paterson Ross, Surgical Unit, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Sir James Spence, Department of Child Health, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne; Prof. B. W. Windeyer, Meyerstein Institute of Radiotherapy, Middlesex Hospital, London. The respective chief medical officers of the Ministry of Health, the Department of Health for Scotland, and the Ministry of Health and Local Government in Northern Ireland will be assessors to the Board, and the secretary of the Medical Research Council will attend all meetings. Dr. F. J. C. Herrald, a senior medical officer on the Council's headquarters staff, will act as secretary of the Board.

#### Inventions and Designs (Crown Use) Bill

THE Inventions and Designs (Crown Use) Bill, the second reading of which in the House of Lords was moved by Lord Mancroft on December 1, purports