ferring body fluids from one insect to another, are now used by workers on both plant and animal virus diseases. It is gratifying to learn that Dr. Storey's research work will not cease on his retirement, as he has accepted a special-appointment post at the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, and pending the arrival of Dr. E. W. Russell (see *Nature*, June 18, p. 1065) he will continue as acting director.

Dr. H. C. Pereira

Dr. Pereira, who has been appointed deputy director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization in succession to Dr. H. H. Storey, is head of the Soil Physics Department of the Organization. After completing a research on cultivation, in association with Rothamsted Experimental Station, he joined the Colonial Agricultural Service in 1946 as a member of the Kenya coffee research team. In Kenya he studied the water relationships of coffee soils with special reference to the functions of cultivation and organic mulches in maintaining the structure and permeability of the soils and, from 1949, he took an active part in co-operative work, prior to his transfer to the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization in 1952. Since then he has worked on dry-farming methods applicable to East African conditions, and has paid special attention to hydrological problems in forest, arable and ranching areas. He has successfully developed soil physical methods for laboratory and field use, in tropical conditions, and has established close relations with all territorial departments concerned in hydrology.

Applied Electricity at Bangor : Prof. M. R. Gavin, M.B.E.

Dr. M. R. Gavin, who has been appointed to the chair of applied electricity at the University College of North Wales, goes to Bangor with a valuable and varied scientific and educational experience. He graduated in mathematics and natural philosophy in the University of Glasgow in 1929, and after some years as a mathematics master in Motherwell, he joined the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Co., Ltd., in 1936. Here much of his work was concerned with high-frequency valves and circuits, which earned for him the degree of D.Sc. from Glasgow ; he was also made M.B.E. in 1945 for his research work during the Second World War. In 1947 Dr. Gavin returned to educational work as H.M. Inspector in technical education with the Scottish Education Department. In 1950 he was appointed head of the Department of Physics and Mathematics in the Birmingham College of Technology, and since 1953 he has also been vice-principal. Despite difficulties, Dr. Gavin has moulded a flourishing research group in Birmingham working mainly on problems in the fields of electronics and semiconductors, and has introduced new postgraduate courses on such topics as electronics, transistors, vacuum technique, X-ray technology and gamma-radiography. The Department of Applied Electricity in Bangor is concerned with the lighter branches of electrical engineering. Although the Department is independent, the relationship with physics is a close one, since there are no other engineering departments in Bangor. Dr. Gavin's blend of experience thus fits him well for this new appointment.

Nuclear Research and Development

Under the title "The Commonwealth and Nuclear Development", the Central Office of Information has produced as Reference Pamphlet No. 2 the account of the British contribution to nuclear research which the Prime Minister on June 16 promised the House of Commons would be available in time for the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (pp. iv+52. London : H.M.S.O. 2*s*. net). In five well-written chapters, to which are appended the United States proposals of March 19, 1954, for an international atomic energy agency, the United Nations draft resolution on co-operation in developing peaceful uses of atomic energy and a brief bibliography of Government publications, it gives a clear account in non-technical language of the development of nuclear physical theory to 1939 and the present position. There are also accounts of the development of nuclear weapons, the United Kingdom nuclear energy project, progress in other Commonwealth countries, particularly the Canadian programme and the position in Australia, and international co-operation in this field, leading to the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the European Atomic Energy Society and the latest agreements (June 15, 1955) between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Most of the information is summarized from official documents ; but among interesting new points the pamphlet emphasizes that an important factor in Britain's growing export of radioisotopes has been their reasonable price—and it may be noted that the price of some have been recently further reduced (see below). The average value of each of the 10,257 dispatches from Amersham last year was £20, and some useful items cost only £5. Exports between October 1953 and September 1954 went to forty-one countries, and to help prospective purchasers, catalogues of radioactive materials and labelled compounds giving technical details and prices are available. Some further information is provided regarding the new experimental nuclear reactors. The zero energy fast reactor ZEPHYR, which went into operation at Harwell in February 1954, will supply operating and design information of major importance for the fast breeder reactor under construction at Dounreay, while a deuterium-moderated low-energy reactor, known as DIMPLE, which started operation in August 1954, has been used for experimental work for a new and more powerful heavy-water reactor which is being built at Harwell to provide the high-neutron flux essential for some research purposes. This reactor, which should be operating in 1957, will be a powerful source of radioactive isotopes as well as testing materials. The pamphlet includes Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd's announcement of June 13 regarding the additional reactors to be built at Calder Hall and near Annam, and summarizes some details of industrial co-operation and of the training programme.

Prices of British-produced Radioisotopes

Reductions in the prices of iodine-131 and colloidal gold-198, which are distributed from the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, are announced by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. These isotopes are used extensively for treating disorders of the thyroid gland and of the lymphatic system. The concession has been made possible by a continuing growth in demand and by improved