

at the Marine Station, Millport, of the Scottish Marine Biological Association; Prof. R. Miller, professor of geography, University of Glasgow; H. N. Munro, senior lecturer in biochemistry, University of Glasgow; Dr. A. Oppenheim, professor of mathematics, University of Malaya, Singapore; Dr. Magnus Pyke, head of the Laboratory Section, Yeast Research Organization of the Distillers' Co., Ltd., Menstrie, Clackmannanshire; Dr. W. Reid, member of the National Coal Board; G. A. Stewart, formerly assistant secretary and librarian, Royal Society of Edinburgh; Prof. T. Symington, St. Mungo-Notman professor of pathology, University of Glasgow; Prof. J. W. Watson, professor of geography, University of Edinburgh.

#### Awards

THE following Prizes have been awarded by the Society: *Keith Prize* for 1953-55, to Prof. A. D. Peacock (Queen's College, Dundee), for his paper in the Society's *Proceedings* during the period of the award and for his contributions to entomology and cytology; *Neill Prize* for 1953-55, to Dr. Robert Osborne (Poultry Research Centre, Edinburgh), for his papers in the *Proceedings* during the period of the award and for his contributions to knowledge of the genetics of the domestic fowl.

#### Aeronautical Engineering at Belfast:

Prof. A. V. Stephens

PROF. A. V. STEPHENS, who at present holds the chair of aeronautics in the University of Sydney, has been appointed to the newly established chair of aeronautical engineering in The Queen's University of Belfast. This chair was established in 1955 with the aid of a generous grant from Messrs. Short Brothers and Harland. The Department is situated in the new engineering and science building, and it will be operating in January 1957. Prof. Stephens graduated in 1930 from St. John's College, Cambridge. After experience with the Royal Aircraft Establishment and as research fellow and demonstrator at Cambridge, he was appointed in 1940 to the chair of aeronautics in Sydney, and he has been dean of the Faculty of Engineering there since 1949. He has built up a flourishing department in Sydney and has played a prominent part in aeronautical research in Australia. He brings to his new post a wealth of experience both in the supervision of research and in administration. His appointment will notably strengthen engineering studies in Belfast and will create another valuable link between the University and the industry of Northern Ireland.

#### Zoology at the Chicago Natural History Museum:

Dr. K. P. Schmidt

AFTER completing thirty years on the staff of the Chicago Natural History Museum, Dr. Karl Patterson Schmidt has retired from the post of chief curator of the Department of Zoology which he has held since 1941, and the latest volume of *Fieldiana* (37 (1955), from the Museum, 10 dollars) is very fittingly offered as a tribute to him. Dr. Schmidt has led a most active life both in the Museum and in the field. A prolific but nevertheless sound writer, he is widely known in North America not only for a most imposing series of scientific papers and reports mainly on material in the Museum, but also for some popular books. In fact, to English-speaking people as a whole, he is well known for his contributions to the "Encyclopaedia Britannica", as translator, with W. C. Allee,

of Hesse's "Tiergeographie auf oekologische Grundlage" and as part author of the "Principles of Animal Ecology". The last two owe much to his own wide field experience in five continents. Primarily a systematist, he has rendered useful service as editor of sections of *Biological Abstracts* ("Reptiles" since its foundation in 1927 and "Amphibia" added since 1941). Vol. 37 of *Fieldiana*, in its 728 pages, illustrated by 31 plates and 144 text figures, contains twenty-six articles covering a wide range of subjects, from a comparison of Old and New World Permian Reptiles to three new species of fleas from rodents, one named after Dr. Schmidt; from beetles parasitic on mammals to bats of the genus *Vampyrops*; from a discussion on the origin of the land birds of Tristan da Cunha to the ecology of fish in North Borneo. A point of interest in this great variety lies in the fact that, in a special note, twenty-seven of the authors admit their debt to Dr. Schmidt. The production of the volume is of the excellence one has learned to expect from the series. Dr. Schmidt has much work still in hand, and we wish him a happy and fruitful time in his retirement.

#### Meldola Medal for 1955 of the Society of Maccabæans

THE Meldola Medal of the Society of Maccabæans has been awarded for 1955 to Dr. Peter Gray, until recently of the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Cambridge and now lecturer in physical chemistry in the University of Leeds. The Medal is awarded each year, on the recommendation of a committee of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, to the chemist who, being a British subject and less than thirty years of age, is considered to have shown the greatest promise as indicated by his or her published work. After graduating in 1946 from the University of Cambridge, Dr. Gray began research in physical chemistry at Cambridge under Dr. F. P. Bowden, at first working on the growth and decay of the transient impulsive pressures developed during impact on liquids and the application of these results to the mechanical initiation of explosion. This was followed by a study of explosions in gaseous systems, in association with Dr. A. D. Yoffe, and led to the discovery in a number of simple decomposition reactions of cool flame phenomena, known previously only in combustion. In 1951 Dr. Gray joined the then recently established Department of Chemical Engineering in Cambridge, where his previous research on explosions developed into a study of flame propagation, particularly in chemically simple systems, which afforded crucial tests of theories of laminar flame propagation. Other fields investigated jointly in the Department were extensive work on the interpretation of the reactions of dinitrogen tetroxide; a study of the combustion of hydrazine; an investigation of the structure, reactivity and thermochemistry of the inorganic azides; and work on the thermochemistry and reactions of nitrites and nitrates.

#### Sir George Beilby Memorial Awards for 1955

THE administrators of the Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, representing the Institute of Metals, the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Chemical Industry, have made awards from the Fund for 1955, each of one hundred and fifty guineas, to Dr. F. D. Richardson and Dr. F. Wormwell. The awards are made to British investigators for work in such fields as fuel economy, chemical engineering and