

animals consuming the crops, and were followed through by means of field, pot and laboratory techniques. Much advisory work went hand-in-hand with these investigations. For the nine years before his appointment in 1954 to the chair of agriculture in the University of Aberdeen he was deputy director of the Institute. In 1945 Prof. Stewart was invited by the Government of India to advise on problems of soil fertility and crop production and spent six months there on this study. His suggestions for the planning and conduct of future experimental work contained in his report published in 1947 have been widely followed in India. Another special investigation, this time for the Development Commission, was a survey in conjunction with Dr. F. N. Woodward and the late Mr. J. P. Maxton of agricultural, forestry and fishery products in the United Kingdom and their utilization. Prof. Stewart has been appointed to many government committees, and at the present time he is chairman of the Board of Management of the Hill Farming Research Organization.

#### Eastman Visiting Professor at Oxford :

Prof. G. W. Beadle

DR. GEORGE WELLS BEADLE, professor of biology and chairman of the Biology Division at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed the Eastman visiting professor at the University of Oxford, for the academic year 1958-59. Dr. Beadle, who was born in Wahoo, Nebraska, in October 1903, received his academic training at the University of Nebraska and at Cornell University. He was a National Research Council Fellow at the California Institute of Technology during 1931-33 and an instructor there until 1935. During the following year he was a guest research scientist at the Institut de Biologie Physico-chimique at the University of Paris, where he worked on genetics with Dr. Boris Ephrussi. In 1936, Dr. Beadle went to Harvard as assistant professor of genetics and in 1937 he became full professor at Stanford, where he remained until he became chairman of the Division of Biology at the California Institute of Technology in 1946. During the year 1956-57 he was president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Eastman professorship was founded in 1929 by George Eastman to send senior American scholars to the University of Oxford for a year. During twenty-eight years the list of Eastman professors has included such distinguished men as Felix Frankfurter, Arthur H. Compton, John Livingston Lowes, Linus Pauling, Wallace Notestein, and Harold C. Urey. The Eastman professor during the current academic year is George Kennan, former American Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. and a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

#### Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Stevenage :

Mr. S. H. Clarke, C.B.E.

MR. S. H. CLARKE, who has been appointed director of the new Research Station now being built for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Stevenage for fuel and process research, is the present director of the Fire Research Station at Boreham Wood, run jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Fire Offices Committee. After taking his degree from the University of Nottingham, at that time the University College, he joined the Forest Products Research Laboratory in 1927. In 1939 he was seconded to the Research and

Experiment Department of the Ministry of Home Security. He was appointed the first director of fire research in 1946 when the Joint Fire Research Organization and the Fire Offices' Committee was set up. The programme of the new Research Station will include, as major items, researches on atmospheric pollution, the production of oil from coal and aspects of mineral processing.

#### The National Zoological Park, Washington :

Dr. T. H. Reed

DR. THEODORE H. REED, who has been appointed director of the National Zoological Park at Washington, was first appointed to the staff in July 1955 as chief veterinarian, a position he held until November 1956, when he became acting director upon the retirement of Dr. William Mann (see *Nature*, 178, 1095; 1956). A graduate of veterinary medicine at Kansas State College, Dr. Reed was assistant veterinarian of the State of Oregon, in Portland, for several years and was in private practice in that State, Idaho, and Minnesota. He was also an active participant in organizing the Portland Zoological Commission and the Portland Zoological Society. J. Lear Grimmer, who is a zoologist with a special interest in herpetology, has been appointed associate director of the National Zoological Park.

#### River Studies at Reading

THE University of Reading has recently established a River Studies Centre on the bank of the Thames near the Borough. Accommodation has been allotted to the Departments of Botany, Geography, Geology and Zoology; a strip of ground running beside the river for several hundreds of yards, and an island about a mile downstream, also belong to the University. The biological accommodation consists of two laboratories and an aquarium room, containing a number of tanks which can be filled directly from the river. The Thames Conservancy has granted permission for the removal of fish of all kinds at all times of the year from the reach between Caversham Lock, in Reading, and Sonning Lock, about 3½ miles downstream. For sampling the fish population, a large seine net has been purchased, and by intensive marking and recapturing it is hoped that figures will be obtained for the rates of birth and death. This, and other possible investigations, have recently been described by K. H. Mann (*J. Inst. Biol.*, 5, No. 2; February 1958). It is hoped that an investigation of the invertebrate fauna will proceed at the same time as the fish studies. Molluscs such as *Anodonta*, *Unio* and *Valvata* are abundant in the river bed, and may provide useful material for population studies. It is likely that a good deal of information will also be collected in the fields of hydrography, meteorology and sedimentology, and it may be possible at a later date to effect a synthesis of the biological, physical and chemical observations.

#### Nuclear Engineering

A DEPARTMENT of Nuclear Engineering, for students of the peaceful applications of atomic energy, is to be established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Manson Benedict, professor of nuclear engineering, has been appointed head of the Department. The 2,640,000 dollar nuclear reactor at the Institute, which will be completed this spring, will serve as a laboratory for the new Department, enabling students to make first-hand studies of