

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Royal Geographical Society : Medals and Awards, 1958

H.M. THE QUEEN has approved the award of the Royal Medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows: *Patron's Medal*: Dr. Paul A. Siple, U.S. Antarctic Expedition, scientific leader at the International Geophysical Year's South Pole Base (the "Amundsen-Scott" Base), 1957-58, for contributions to Antarctic exploration and research; *Founder's Medal*: Sir Edmund Hillary, leader, New Zealand component, Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, for Antarctic and Himalayan exploration.

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society has made the following awards: *Special Gold Medal*: Dr. Vivian Fuchs, leader, Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition; *Victoria Medal*: Prof. Roberto Almagià, professor of geography, University of Rome, for contributions to geographical research; *Murchison Grant*: Prof. E. G. Bowen, Gregynog professor of geography and anthropology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, for studies on the geography of Wales; *Back Grant*: Ingénieur-en-Chef Bertrand Imbert, leader of the International Geophysical Year French Antarctic Expedition 1957-58, for contributions to Antarctic exploration and research; *Cuthbert Peek Grant*: Dr. Peter H. Davis, lecturer in botany, University of Edinburgh, for botanical exploration in south-east Turkey; *Gill Memorial*: Dr. M. J. Wise, Cassel reader in geography, London School of Economics, for studies in economic geography; *Mrs. Patrick Ness Award*: Captain A. G. Bomford, R.E., chief surveyor, South Georgia Survey, 1955-56.

The last occasion on which a Special Gold Medal was awarded by the Society was in 1910 when it was given to Robert E. Peary, of the United States Navy, the first man to reach the North Geographical Pole; previous British recipients were Captain Robert Falcon Scott, R.N. (in 1904), and Sir Ernest Shackleton (in 1909).

Fourth Artificial Earth Satellite (1958 $\beta$ )

As part of the scientific programme of the International Geophysical Year, another artificial Earth satellite was launched by means of a 'Vanguard' rocket of the United States Navy from the testing ground at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on March 17. The new satellite, named 1958 $\beta$ , consisting of an aluminium sphere 6.4 in. in diameter and of mass 3.25 lb., is revolving in an eccentric orbit, varying between 400 and 2,500 miles above the Earth's surface, in a period of 135 minutes. The inclination of the orbit to the ecliptic is at present unknown. The satellite is equipped with two radio transmitters; one, powered by chemical batteries, broadcasting on a frequency of 108.00 megacycles per second; the other, powered by solar batteries, operating on 108.30 megacycles per second. The third stage of the 'Vanguard' launching vehicle, a rocket some 4 ft. in length with a mass of about 50 lb., which ejected the sphere from its nose when it attained orbital velocity, is also circling the Earth about a mile from the satellite. It is hoped that this satellite will continue in its orbit for a number of years and afford excellent opportunities for continued observations of value to geophysicists.

Brewing Industry Research Foundation :  
Sir Ian Heilbron, D.S.O., F.R.S.

SIR IAN HEILBRON, who is retiring from the post of director of the Brewing Industry Research Foundation, Nutfield, Surrey, has held many distinguished academic appointments. He was professor of organic chemistry in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; and also for some years a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, of which he became chairman in 1953. At the time of his appointment to the Foundation in 1948, the brewing industry had decided to start a central research station, and it fell to Sir Ian to select the site, and to adapt Lyttel Hall, the Victorian property chosen at Nutfield, to meet the requirements of up-to-date research laboratories. This he did with conspicuous success and the Foundation is now a notable example of a modern research station. Sir Ian's reputation as a scientist and in the sphere of research, in which he had rendered distinguished service on a number of departmental and national committees, enabled him to collect around him a band of first-class scientists, who quickly put the Foundation into the top rank of brewing research bodies in Europe, and extended its reputation to the United States. Not the least of Sir Ian's achievements has been that he has succeeded in keeping constantly before his staff, and before the industry, the ultimate practical applications of the fundamental research carried out at the Foundation.

## Dr. A. H. Cook, F.R.S.

DR. A. H. COOK has been appointed director of the Brewing Industry Research Foundation at Nutfield at the age of forty-six in succession to Sir Ian Heilbron. Dr. Cook gained the Ph.D. degree for research in organic chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and after a further period of study at Heidelberg, worked for some time in the field of dyestuff chemistry with Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. In 1937 he joined the staff of the Imperial College where, with Sir Ian Heilbron, he did notable work on the chemistry of penicillin. In 1946 he was appointed reader and assistant professor of organic chemistry at the Imperial College, and in 1951 he was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society. Since 1949 he has been assistant director of the Brewing Industry Research Foundation under Sir Ian Heilbron.

## The World and the Observer

IN his broadcast talk, "The World and the Observer", printed in *The Listener* of February 6, Lord Russell investigates the relation between our sensory experiences of material things and the theories of the natural sciences, in particular of physics, concerning the ultimate nature of physical reality. Primary particles such as electrons cannot be perceived, and are quite unlike the sort of objects which we can perceive. Russell's approach to the problem draws on physics, physiology, psychology and logic. His thesis may be summarized in three points. First, the entities dealt with by mathematical physics are "constructions composed of events and taken as units for the convenience of the mathe-