

he published, or was the co-author of, more than sixty papers and H.M. Stationery Office publications on this group of insects, and his staff published many more. His main contribution to the literature was the four papers which he published in the *Annals of Applied Biology* under the title of "Studies in the Biology of the Death Watch Beetle". These papers, and those of the late W. G. Campbell (officer-in-charge, Wood Chemistry Section, Forest Products Research Laboratory) on the nutritional aspects of this species, formed a basis for improved control measures in the light of the knowledge revealed on the association between death watch beetle attack and preceding fungal decay. For his paper on "Recent Work on Wood-Destroying Insects" he received a silver medal from the Royal Society of Arts. He read his last paper, entitled "Developments in the Control of Timber Insects", before the Society of Chemical Industry only three days before his death.

During his years at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Fisher was constantly consulted on problems concerning wood-boring insect infestations, not only in timber, joinery and furniture, including

many of the ancient buildings of historical interest in Britain, but also on infestations of tropical timbers. A physical disability had prevented him from following the career of a forest officer, but he retained a keen interest in the entomological problems of forest insects and in particular of the *Ambrosia* beetles. The post-war shortage of traditional timbers and demand for substitutes from among tropical species brought the *Ambrosia* beetle problem to the fore, and it was mainly due to his efforts that the West African Timber Borer Research Unit was set up by the Colonial Office in 1952. The supervision of the training of the staff of this unit and their research programme became one of his chief interests. He also served on H.M.S. *Victory* Technical Advisory Committee and on the committee set up by the Central Council for the Care of Churches. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1952.

He leaves a wife and two sons of whom the elder, Dr. R. Campbell Fisher, is studying insect parasites at the Entomological Laboratory, Belleville, Ontario, Canada, and the younger, aeronautical engineering at the University of Bristol. J. D. BLETCHLY

NEWS and VIEWS

Atoms for Peace Award :

Prof. G. C. de Hevesy, For.Mem.R.S.

THE second Atoms for Peace Award of 75,000 dollars and a gold medallion, founded as a memorial to Henry and Edsel Ford, has been made to Prof. G. C. de Hevesy, associate of the Institute for Research in Organic Chemistry, University of Stockholm, and of the Institute of Theoretical Physics, Copenhagen. In announcing the award, Dr. Detlev Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, said that Prof. Hevesy was selected unanimously from 111 nominations for "his basic contribution to the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the discovery and development of tracer techniques in chemistry, biology, and medicine, using natural and artificial radioactive and stable isotopes for his continuing work in these fields". Prof. Hevesy is a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and was awarded the Copley Medal in 1949. He received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1943.

United States Atomic Energy Commission :

Dr. Frank K. Pittman

DR. FRANK K. PITTMAN has been appointed director of the Division of Reactor Development of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and the functions previously assigned to the Office of Industrial Development have been transferred to that Division, except for those having to do with isotope development. The functions of isotope development will be undertaken by an Office of Isotope and Radiation Development with Dr. Paul C. Aebersold acting in charge.

Dr. Pittman graduated at Vanderbilt University and received his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been associated with the United States atomic energy programme since 1944, when he joined the staff of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. He was in charge of plutonium production at the

Laboratory until 1948. He has been director of the Office of Industrial Development since it was established in December 1957, and also had been serving as acting director of the Division of Reactor Development since August 5, following the resignation of W. Kenneth Davis.

Smith Kline and French Research Institute :

Prof. W. A. Bain

PROF. W. A. BAIN, who has held the chair of pharmacology at the University of Leeds since 1946, has accepted an invitation to become director of the Smith Kline and French Research Institute, and will resign his university appointment to take up this new post. After graduating in Edinburgh, William Alexander Bain became assistant to the late Sir E. Sharpey Schafer in 1928. In 1931, he was appointed lecturer in experimental physiology in the University of Edinburgh, before moving to Leeds in 1934, where he became, first, lecturer in physiology and later reader in pharmacology. Prof. Bain has conducted research on the autonomic nerves, on adrenaline and on the antagonists of histamine.

Laboratories for the Smith Kline and French Research Institute are under construction at Welwyn Garden City and are expected to be completed by the late summer of 1959. The research team which Prof. Bain will direct will form an important part of, and be complementary to, the extensive research effort of the parent company in Philadelphia. The Company believes that by having research teams both in Great Britain and in the United States there will be advantages to both by the interplay and exchange of scientific fact, opinions, outlook and approach.

Bell Telephone Laboratories : New Directors of Research

Dr. W. D. Lewis, of Mendham, and Mr. A. H. White, of Summit, have been appointed directors of research at Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey. Dr. Lewis will be in charge of