

Dr. Butler first studied at the University of Adelaide and graduated (B.Sc.) in 1945 with credits in all subjects (physics, pure mathematics and applied mathematics). He obtained his first-class honours degree at Adelaide in 1946, and his M.Sc. in 1947. This latter was for theoretical work, in collaboration with the Physiology Department at the University of Adelaide, and involved an analysis of the transient responses of electronic equipment being employed in physiological and biological research. In 1948 Dr. Butler obtained an Australian National University scholarship, and proceeded to the Department of Mathematical Physics at the University of Birmingham, England, to work under the supervision of Prof. R. E. Peierls. He remained there until September 1951, obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham in June 1951. In September 1951, Dr. Butler took up a position in the Laboratory of Nuclear Studies at Cornell University, where he remained for two years. He then returned to Australia first to spend ten months at the Australian National University at Canberra, Australia, and then to take a readership at the University of Sydney. Since leaving Birmingham in 1951, Dr. Butler has made research contributions in several fields, including the low-temperature problems of liquid helium and superconductivity, and in the field of meson and strange particle physics. Most of his work, however, has been in the field of nuclear reactions, not only furthering his original work on stripping reactions, but also as one of the originators of the general field of direct nuclear reactions.

**Scientific Adviser to the U.K. High Commissioner in India :** Dr. H. R. Ambler, O.B.E.

DR. H. R. AMBLER has been appointed to the newly created post of scientific adviser to the U.K. High Commissioner in New Delhi. In addition to advising the High Commissioner on scientific matters, he will be responsible for furthering the exchange of information between British and Indian scientists. Dr. Ambler, who is fifty-eight, will hold the rank of senior principal scientific officer in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He joined the Government service shortly after he graduated with first-class honours in chemistry at the University of London in 1920. Since then he has held a variety of posts at home and abroad, including seven years in India. At present, Dr. Ambler is assistant director of the Chemical Inspectorate of the Ministry of Supply at Woolwich. Dr. Ambler, whose appointment is for three years in the first instance, is taking up his new duties at the end of the year.

**Explosives Research and Development at the Ministry of Aviation :** Dr. C. M. Johnson, C.B.E.

THE Ministry of Aviation announces that Dr. C. M. Johnson has been appointed director of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey. Dr. Johnson was born in 1904 and gained his Ph.D. at the University of London in 1927. For the next eleven years he was a lecturer in chemistry at the University of California and the University of Bristol. In 1938 he joined the Shell Refining and Marketing Co. as research manager, moving in 1948 to the Explosives Research and Development Establishment. Since 1954 he has been director of the Materials and Explosives Research and Development Branch.

**Deputy Director of Air Armament Research :** Mr. W. H. Hill

MR. W. H. HILL has been appointed deputy director of air armament research. He was born in 1915 at Warwick, and gained his degree at the University of Cambridge. During 1937-41 he was an assistant lecturer in applied mathematics at the University College of the South West, Exeter. In 1941 he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and was posted to work with the Ministry of Supply on radar and signals research. From 1946 until 1951 he worked at the Army Operational Research Group, where he became general scientific co-ordinator. In 1951 he joined the Department of the Scientific Advisor to the Army Council. In 1952 he was appointed to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, working on guided weapons, and in 1954 he transferred to the Armament Research and Development Establishment as superintendent of the Weapons Assessment Department.

**History of Medicine and Pharmacy**

A Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy has been founded under the auspices of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London (which received its Charter from King James I in 1617). Its aim is to foster and extend more general interest in medical history, and to attract the co-operation of general historians, so that work in this field may be co-ordinated with wider historical studies. The Society will provide in its ancient hall a central meeting point for historians, and medical and pharmaceutical historical societies. In addition to the Gideon de Laune Oration, which will next be delivered by Sir John Charles in April 1960, it has an endowment for two additional lectures which may be delivered in London or elsewhere. A research fellowship, generously endowed by the Wellcome Trustees, is held at present by Mr. R. S. Roberts, a professional historian, who is working upon the early organization of the drug trade from the seventeenth century. It is proposed to hold occasional symposia, discussions, congresses, and joint meetings with other bodies; invitations to visit sites of medical historical interest have already been received. Announcements and reports of meetings will appear in the official organ of the Faculty, *Medical History*, which is published quarterly. Ordinary membership of the Faculty is by election. Applications for affiliation from student historical, medical or pharmaceutical societies or similar bodies, which should nominate a representative, can also be accepted. The inaugural lecture will be given in the Hall of the Society on December 2 by Canon Charles E. Raven, on "Medicine—Mother of the Sciences". Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

**Distribution of British Books and Films Overseas**

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on November 9, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Dr. Charles Hill, said that negotiations had begun with several countries with the aim of agreeing upon schemes broadly on the lines of the former British book export schemes. Mr. A. L. P. Norrington had accepted the chairmanship of the Advisory Committee on the Selection of Low-Priced Books for Overseas, and the necessary administrative arrangements were being made so that negotiations