

voltage pulse of short duration is thus produced which has a magnitude proportional to the size of the particle and which is essentially proportional to particle volume. The voltage pulses are amplified, fed to a threshold circuit with an adjustable threshold-level and counted. By counting at successive threshold increments, size distribution curves can be easily and accurately obtained. Corrections are automatically made for co-incident passage of more than one particle through the aperture, and the large number of particles counted minimizes error. Calibration is performed by using standard particles of known size. The accuracy of this method as applied to measuring the size of bacteria has been shown to be of the order of 2 per cent of the diameter for  $1\mu$  spheres<sup>26</sup>. It will be obvious that information obtained from a machine of this nature is of greater potential value to biologists than more conventional methods merely measuring some planar function.

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## NEWS and VIEWS

### Electrical Engineering in the Imperial College of Science and Technology

SIR WILLIS JACKSON, director of research and education with Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., now the Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., and president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, has been appointed to the chair of electrical engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. He will take up this post in October 1961, succeeding Prof. Arnold Tustin, who has been responsible for the central planning of the new building for the Department, and who has for some time wished to relinquish the post of head of the Department. Prof. Tustin will continue to direct the work of the Department in the field of heavy electrical engineering. Other leading members of the Department are Prof. Dennis Gabor (applied electron physics) and Prof. Colin Cherry (telecommunications).

The new appointment exemplifies the very close links which now exist between industry and the Imperial College at the highest level. Sir Willis Jackson resigned his chair at the College some seven years ago to go to Metropolitan-Vickers (see *Nature*, **171**, 242; 1953). From this position he has exercised great influence both within the electrical industry and in the field of technological education in general. Now he is to return to his old College and his old Department. It is of the highest significance that one of the most distinguished technologists in Britain should be re-entering the academic ranks in a key post.

### Royal Society Visiting Professorship :

Prof. A. Schlüter

THE Royal Society has instituted a visiting professorship so that oversea scientists of high distinction may be invited to the United Kingdom for a period of an academic year, or at least six months, to enable them to carry out research. The first holder of the appointment will be Prof. Arnulf Schlüter, professor

of theoretical physics in the University of Munich, and also of the Max-Planck-Institut für Physik und Astrophysik, Munich. He will take up the appointment on March 1, 1961, and work in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge on problems in theoretical astrophysics and plasma physics. Prof. Schlüter, although still a young man, has achieved international distinction for his work. He was among the first to perceive the importance of magnetic fields in interstellar gas clouds, and has made many contributions to cosmical electrodynamics. He has clarified the nature of conductivity in ionized gases, and advanced the knowledge of the conditions for equilibrium and stability of plasmas. More recently he has investigated the conditions for thermonuclear reactions.

### Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield : Prof. R. K. Kelsall

MR. R. K. KELSALL, at present head of the Department of Social Studies at Sheffield, has been appointed to a newly created chair of sociological studies. Mr. Kelsall was educated in the University of Glasgow and graduated M.A. with honours in political economy and history. He was awarded a Clarke postgraduate scholarship and a Leverhulme research grant, and also the Gladstone Prize. In 1933 he was appointed lecturer in the Economics and Commerce Department of University College, Hull, and was made head of this Department in 1939. In 1944 he took up an appointment as research officer in charge of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning's regional research unit for Birmingham and the West Midlands, and held this appointment until 1950, when he was appointed senior research officer in charge of the Nuffield Sociological Research Unit at the London School of Economics. He was appointed head of the School of Social Studies in the University of Sheffield in 1957, the post he now holds. Mr. Kelsall has had wide experience of many different