

to the international reputation of the Chalk River Laboratories. In 1955 Paul was appointed to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, where he is now in charge of nuclear research using electrostatic generators, and is deputy head of the Nuclear Physics Division. Paul is well known for his interest in nuclear structure; he was the first to point out that the collective model could give an excellent account of the properties of levels of light nuclei. His ability in interpretation and his wide experience of high-tension work will be of great service to Manchester, where a vigorous programme of research in low-energy nuclear physics is already in being.

#### Prof. H. E. Hall

DR. H. E. HALL, who has also been appointed to a chair of physics at Manchester, is only thirty-two. He was educated at Latymer Upper School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He went to the Royal Society Mond Laboratory in 1952 and quickly made his mark as an exceptionally skilled experimenter who was equally at home in the construction of delicate equipment and in the mathematical analysis of his results. He carried out a variety of researches on liquid helium which have led to a significant elucidation of our understanding of its properties. Probably the most important contribution to this understanding was an elegant experiment, in collaboration with Dr. W. F. Vinen, in which they showed that second sound was attenuated when propagated in rotating liquid helium II; this demonstrated very directly the existence of vortex lines. In 1958 he was appointed lecturer in the University of Manchester, and has contributed to the development there of a vigorous low-temperature group; he has also expanded his interests and taken up some interesting problems concerned with the Mössbauer effect.

#### British Scientific Attaché in Paris: Mr. R. V. Melville

MR. RICHARD MELVILLE, of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been appointed scientific attaché to the British Embassy in Paris. He will advise the British Ambassador on scientific matters and report on French scientific and technical development in the civil field. Mr. Melville, who is forty-seven, will hold the rank of senior principal scientific officer. He has been with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research since joining the Geological Survey and Museum in 1938. He has recently been on secondment to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature as assistant secretary, which has brought him into close contact with French scientists. Mr. Melville, who is French-speaking, has also taken part in scientific expeditions in France and French North Africa. Educated at Wellington College and in the United States, he graduated at the University of Reading in 1936, obtained a special honours degree in geology the following year and obtained his M.Sc. in 1941.

#### Prof. Peter Pringsheim

PROF. PETER PRINGSHEIM, who will be eighty years of age on March 19, was born in Munich, son of a distinguished mathematician, his mother being formerly an actress. He grew up in a home of culture, music and of literary interest. His sister married Thomas Mann. Prof. Pringsheim spent some time in Cambridge with J. J. Thomson, but then joined Rubens in 1909. His career was profoundly affected

by the two World Wars. In 1914 he was attending the British Association meeting in Australia when war was declared and he was interned for its duration. During his enforced leisure he wrote the text of his monograph on fluorescence and phosphorescence which, together with his work in the field of fluorescence of vapours, established him as an authority. Soon after his return from internment he was appointed professor in the University of Berlin, where he remained until dismissed in 1933 because of his partly Jewish descent. He moved to Brussels with his Belgian-born wife; but in 1940 was overtaken by another World War, being arrested and taken to a camp in France. Fortunately, his American friends secured his release and he was able to reach the United States to work first in California and later in the Argonne National Laboratory, although he was not reunited with his wife until 1946. In 1954 he retired to Antwerp but maintained his interest in luminescence.

In the early 'twenties Prof. Pringsheim extended his interest in luminescence to the fluorescence of organic molecules in condensed systems. He contributed to the *Handbuch der Physik* in his field. The years of the Second World War led to a revision of his book, and in 1946 a new, monumental text was ready, perhaps the last possible attempt anyone could make to provide a comprehensive review of luminescence in the gaseous, liquid and solid states. Although he regretted that so much of the war-time advances in luminescence was released after the publication of his book, Pringsheim's text still stands as a landmark in luminescence, with its bibliography only a little short of two thousand references. He completed his own research interests by a post-war incursion into the problems of luminescence and colour centres in the alkali halides, reviving a previous interest in the fluorescence of heavy metal ions complexes in solution. He is one of the few people who has attended almost all the major conferences in his subject and it was a pleasure to see him, even in retirement, participating in the Paris Conference of 1956.

#### Effects of Radioactivity in the Sea

RESEARCH on the effects of radioactivity in the sea is to be undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency under an agreement recently concluded between the Agency, the Government of Monaco and the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco. The research, which will be conducted at the Scientific Centre of the Government of Monaco, is related to the problem of possible pollution of the sea through the deposition of radioactive materials. It is aimed at studying: (a) the movement of water and marine organisms and the deposition of organic and inorganic matter; (b) the distribution in marine organisms of radioactive materials already existing or that may be introduced into various locations; (c) the effects on marine life of radioactive materials at various concentration-levels. The programme has been approved by the Agency's Scientific Advisory Committee, which is composed of seven leading scientists from different countries. The research, which will start soon, is planned to extend for three years. The laboratory and working facilities of the Scientific Centre in the Oceanographic Museum and a wide variety of electronic and monitoring equipment will be made available by Monaco. The Oceanographic Institute will put at the disposal of