

rubber latex sounding balloons fastened to a metal gondola for lift. Of this flight Dr. Gilruth said: "It was a tremendous achievement. For one thing, he used electrically controlled blasting caps to blow off his ballast. Thus he was the first to use pyrotechnics to actuate devices. Now we have 73 such pyrotechnic devices for Mercury capsule".

His interest in high-altitude flight and balloons preceded that of Raven Industries in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Winzen in South St. Paul; Schjeldahl in Northfield, and General Mills in Minneapolis. He later experimented with 'Cellophane' and other plastic balloons, and helped design the polyethylene *Skyllark* series of high-altitude

balloons with which the U.S. Air Force sent manned flights to altitudes exceeding 100,000 ft.

Prof. Piccard published many papers on ballooning, and in his earlier specialization, chemistry (organic, inorganic, and physical), and in aeronautical engineering.

His hobbies and interests included sailing, skiing, mountain climbing, riding in 'blimps' and aeroplanes. In regard to this he said: "But to me, riding in a free balloon is the most beautiful sport of all". During his retirement, he and Mrs. Piccard found pleasure in their cabin retreat of a four-acre island in Lake Vermilion. He and Mrs. Piccard were also part-time teachers at St. Paul's Episcopal Day School.

C. C. CHANG

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society Research Appointments

THE Royal Society has made the following appointments in original scientific research: The Tropical Research fellowship has been awarded to Dr. K. Vickerman, of the Department of Zoology, University College, London, to enable him to work on the mechanism of structural and physiological transformation in the life-cycles of trypanosomes. A Stothert Research fellowship has been awarded to Mr. C. N. Hales, of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, to enable him to work on the immunochemical investigation of insulin. A further Stothert Research fellowship has been awarded to Mr. P. E. Reynolds, of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, to enable him to work on cell-wall synthesis in bacteria, and the effects of antibiotics. The Head Bequest Committee of the Royal Society has awarded the Henry Head Research fellowship to Dr. J. S. Gillespie, of the Institute of Physiology, University of Glasgow, to enable him to continue his work on the automatic innervation of the gut. The appointments take effect from October 1.

Warren Spring Laboratory : Dr. C. C. Hall

DR. CHARLES HALL has been appointed director of the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Stevenage. Dr. Hall, at present deputy director of the Laboratory, will succeed the retiring director, Mr. S. H. Clarke, who will take up a post in the Department's Headquarters, with responsibility for supervising the careers of scientific staff in the Department. Both appointments take effect in January 1964. Dr. Hall was born in Croydon and was educated at Beckenham County Grammar School and at Sir John Cass College, University of London, where he graduated (B.Sc.) in 1929 with first-class honours in chemistry; he obtained his M.Sc. in 1930 and Ph.D. in 1934. He joined the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1930 and was with that Station until it closed down in 1958. During most of the time, Dr. Hall was concerned with the chemistry and technology of the production of liquid fuels from coal. From 1939 until 1958 he was in charge of the Station's largest team working on the Fischer-Tropsch process. After the Second World War he played a leading part in the investigations into the development of the process in Germany. From 1953 until 1958 he was the deputy chief chemist of the Fuel Research Station. In 1959, Dr. Hall was appointed deputy director of the newly-formed Warren Spring Laboratory, which is engaged in research primarily on air pollution, mineral processing and chemical engineering. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1944, was a member of Council from 1957 until 1960 and chairman of the London Section from 1957 until 1959. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Fuel in 1954.

International Atomic Energy Agency's Research Laboratories : Prof. Leo Yaffe

PROF. LEO YAFFE (Canada) has been appointed director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Division of Research and Laboratories. Prof. Yaffe, who took up his post on July 14, was born in 1916 at Devil's Lake, North Dakota. He studied at the University of Manitoba, gaining his B.Sc. in 1940 and M.Sc. in 1941, and received his Ph.D. from McGill University in 1943. He was director of the Radiochemistry Laboratory of McGill University and has been teaching since 1952, and Macdonald professor of chemistry at that University since September 1959. From 1943 until 1952 Prof. Yaffe was project leader in charge of Nuclear Chemistry and Tracer Research with Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., Chalk River. Prof. Yaffe was adviser to the Canadian Delegations for both United Nations Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva in 1955 and 1958. His predecessor as director of the Division of Research and Laboratories was Prof. Carlo Salvetti (Italy) until March 1962. In the interim period, Prof. Alexandre Sanielevici (Romania) served as acting director.

Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

AT a general meeting of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. a re-organization of the Academy has been approved. Fifteen specialized branches for the guidance of research in the main directions of science have been formed. Each of the previously existing eight branches had covered a very wide range of different fields of learning. Therefore, instead of one biological branch, for example, three new ones have been set up: biochemistry and chemistry of physiologically active compounds; physiology; zoology, botany and evolution. Four new branches, including a branch of nuclear physics and mathematics, have been instituted. A new branch has been set up for the science of the Earth, which unites geologists, geographers, oceanologists, geophysicists, specialists on the physics of the atmosphere, etc. Mstislav Keldysh has been re-elected president of the Academy. Nikolai Semenov, who headed the branch of chemical sciences, has been elected vice-president. Norair Sisakyan, who was the academic secretary of the biological sciences branch, has been elected senior honorary secretary.

Anglo-Russian Exchange of Scientists

SIR BERNARD LOVELL is visiting Leningrad at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. On July 9 he met Vasily Isayev, the Mayor of the City, and other officials, and discussed with them scientific contacts between the Pulkovo Observatory and Jodrell Bank, which, he said, were very useful. Leningrad astronomers supported Sir Bernard's proposal that an exchange of junior scientific personnel should be started. Sir Bernard is planning to familiarize himself with the scientific