

Among more recent activities was the presidency of the Charles Darwin Foundation, created in 1959, in which he took a very great personal interest. It was typical of his untiring energy in the cause of nature conservation that only this year he should have made an arduous journey to complete arrangements with the Government of Ecuador whereby 200 hectares on the Island of Santa Cruz in the Galápagos were presented

to the Charles Darwin Foundation. The agreement was signed on February 14, 1964, and on this occasion he was awarded the high decoration of Commander Al Merito. He arrived back in Belgium two days later, and his first words on meeting his wife at the airport were, "I have succeeded". This achievement may be regarded as a climax of his career and a fitting memorial to van Straelen's work in very many fields. EDWARD HINDLE

NEWS and VIEWS

Head of the Research Department of the B.B.C. Engineering Division : Mr. W. Proctor Wilson, C.B.E.

MR. W. PROCTOR WILSON is to retire from the post of head of the Research Department of the B.B.C. Engineering Division on July 31. Mr. Proctor Wilson will have completed thirty-four years' service with the Research Department of the B.B.C., which he first joined in 1927, having previously been with the Western Electric Co. (later Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd.). He left the B.B.C. in 1930 to join the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. and returned in 1933 to rejoin the Research Department, where he remained until 1939. Throughout the Second World War he served in the Signals Branch of the Royal Air Force, first in 1939 as an assistant air attaché, Paris, and later from 1941 until 1945 as chief engineer of No. 60 (Signals) Group with the rank of group captain. In 1943 he was appointed C.B.E. (Military Division). Mr. Proctor Wilson retired from the Royal Air Force Reserve in 1954, retaining the rank of group captain. On his return to the B.B.C. in 1945 he was appointed assistant head of the Research Department. He became head of the Research Department in 1950.

Mr. G. G. Gouriet

MR. G. G. GOURIET, who has been appointed to succeed Mr. Proctor Wilson, returns to the B.B.C. after having held the post of technical director of Wayne Kerr Laboratories, Ltd., since 1958. He first joined the engineering staff of the B.B.C. in 1937 and was appointed to the Operations and Maintenance Department. He moved to the Research Department in 1943, and in 1946 was placed in charge of the television laboratory doing fundamental research. In 1950 he became head of Television Section of Research Department, later called the Television Group, and was principally concerned with colour television until he resigned to join Wayne Kerr. Mr. Gouriet has been responsible for a number of patented inventions in the field of electronics. He takes up his new appointment as head of the Research Department on August 1.

Plant Physiology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London : Prof. H. K. Porter, F.R.S.

PROF. HELEN PORTER, who has been professor of plant physiology at Imperial College since January 1959, will be retiring from the post in September of this year. She was educated at Clifton High School for Girls, Bristol, and graduated in chemistry at Bedford College, London, in 1921, later taking an M.Sc. in botany (plant physiology). In 1922 she was appointed research assistant to Prof. V. H. Blackman to work on the biochemistry of apples in cold storage. In 1931 she joined the staff of the Research Institute of Plant Physiology and began work on the carbohydrate metabolism of the barley plant. This work has been very widely developed during subsequent years to cover the enzymology and physiology of carbohydrate metabolism in a number of experimental objects. During the years 1947-55 she travelled widely in the United States and Canada lecturing, and studying enzymological techniques with Cori at St. Louis and elsewhere. When, in 1953, a laboratory was equipped at Imperial College for enzymological investigations, she

was put in charge of the research group which occupied it. In 1957 she was appointed reader in enzymology and in 1959 appointed to the chair of plant physiology at Imperial College and simultaneously as director of the Agricultural Research Unit of Plant Physiology. She was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1956 and Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1964. She has served on many committees of the Royal Society including the Biological Research Committee.

Prof. C. P. Whittingham

PROF. C. P. WHITTINGHAM, at present head of the Department of Botany at Queen Mary College, University of London, will be transferring to the chair of plant physiology at Imperial College in October 1964. Prof. Whittingham was educated at Owen's School, London, and St. John's College, Cambridge, where he obtained first-class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos (Botany) in 1943. He was Hughes prizeman in the College and Frank Smart prizeman in the University. During the Second World War he carried out research on the physiology of crop plants at Imperial College and later at the Department of Agriculture, Oxford. During 1945-50 he worked with Profs. Robert Emerson and van Niel in the United States. He returned to research on photosynthesis at the Botany School, Cambridge, and continued this while on a further visit to the United States with Prof. A. H. Brown, Minnesota. During 1952-58 he held a research appointment in the Botany School at Cambridge. Prof. Whittingham's main interest has always been centred on photosynthesis, concerning which he has many publications to his credit, and he is the author, in association with Dr. Robin Hill, of a well-known monograph, *Photosynthesis*, which was published in 1955, with later editions, including one in Spanish, in 1957.

Physical Geography in the University of Wales, Aberystwyth : Prof. C. Kidson

DR. C. KIDSON of the Nature Conservancy has been appointed to the newly created chair of physical geography in the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Dr. Kidson is a graduate of King's College, London, and a specialist in geomorphology. After serving in the North African and Italian campaigns, he joined the staff of the Department of Geography at the then University College, Exeter. While in the South-West he worked on the denudation chronology of the rivers of Devon with special reference to the River Exe. The substance of this work was accepted for a doctorate degree of the University of London and was published afterwards in the *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. In 1954 Dr. Kidson was appointed physiographer to the Nature Conservancy and head of the coastal research section. Later this section was enlarged and re-named the Physiographical Section so as to include the whole range of physiography and hydrology. Dr. Kidson remained head of the new section and has directed its work ever since. He has published several important research papers dealing with coastal geomorphology, concerned mainly with the evolution of sand dunes and sand spits and the use of radioactive methods for detecting the movement of shingle over the