

and on stretch receptors associated with the insect body-musculature. During his stay in Africa, Dr. Finlayson opened up new aspects of research into the metamorphosis of the tsetse fly. In the field of higher education he took an active part in the modernization of biological teaching both in the grammar school and in the university. The new biology building at Birmingham owes much to his untiring participation in its planning and equipping.

Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment:
Dr. R. H. Barker

DR. RONALD BARKER has been appointed the second deputy director of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment. Born in Dublin in 1915, Dr. Barker was educated at University College, Hull, where he obtained the London B.Sc. honours degree in physics in 1938. He was awarded a Ph.D. in 1945 for research on digital servo systems. Dr. Barker started his career with the Standard Telephone and Cable Co., at Woolwich, with whom he spent three years. In 1941 he entered the Civil Service, and joined the Signals Research and Development Establishment of the Ministry of Supply, where he was promoted to senior principal scientific officer in 1954. His interests there included the digital transmission of fire-control data and telemetry for guided weapons. In 1954 he attended the thirteenth course at the Joint Services Staff College and, on completion of this course, he was appointed assistant director electronics research and development (air) at the Ministry of Supply headquarters, with special responsibility for airborne radar, air communications and navigation aids. In 1957 he returned to the Signals Research and Development Establishment as superintendent of research. He left the Civil Service in 1959 to become deputy director of the Central Electricity Generating Board's laboratory at Leatherhead, where he remained for two years. In 1961 he joined the board of R. B. Pullin and Co., Ltd., which later became part of the Rank Organization, and it was from this firm that he rejoined the Scientific Civil Service to take up his present post. In his new appointment, Dr. Barker has direct responsibility for two Divisions of the Establishment dealing respectively with basic techniques and the applications of explosives.

Physics in the University of Manchester:

Prof. P. G. Murphy

DR. P. G. MURPHY, who has been appointed to the newly established additional chair of physics at the University of Manchester, is at present a senior member of the research staff of the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory at Chilton, Berkshire. A Cambridge graduate, Dr. Murphy gained his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, where he studied problems in atomic and nuclear physics under Prof. S. K. Allison. He was for several years an I.C.I. Fellow in the University of Liverpool, working with Prof. J. M. Cassels in high-energy physics research at the 156-in. synchrocyclotron. In 1960 he took a fixed-term research appointment at the Rutherford Laboratory, and spent the next eighteen months on detached duty at the University of California at Berkeley, where he carried out several experiments at the 6-GeV Bevatron accelerator as a member of the group led by Drs. E. J. Lofgren, B. Cork and W. A. Wenzel. This group developed the first spark chamber to be used in a high-energy physics experiment, and studied K -meson scattering, and polarization effects in π -meson scattering and in Λ and Σ^+ hyperon decays. Since the autumn of 1961 Dr. Murphy has worked in the *Nimrod* research programme, as joint leader of the resident counter group. He and his colleagues have completed experiments at *Nimrod* on the scattering of π^+ and π^- mesons by liquid hydrogen and by a polarized proton target which they and Dr. H. H. Atkinson developed. He gave a course of lectures at the University of Reading on symmetry

properties in elementary particle physics. He was promoted to senior principal scientist in 1964.

Physical Chemistry in the University College of Swansea:
Prof. J. H. Purnell

DR. J. H. PURNELL, at present lecturer in physical chemistry in the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Trinity Hall, has been appointed to the newly established chair of physical chemistry in the University College of Swansea. He will therefore be returning to South Wales, of which he is a native, having taken his first degree at the University College of Cardiff in 1946. Following this he was successively assistant lecturer and lecturer at Cardiff, during which period he was awarded the Ph.D. degree of the University of Wales. In 1952 he migrated to Cambridge in order to work with Prof. R. G. W. Norrish; there he obtained a second Ph.D. in 1955. In the same year he was appointed demonstrator in physical chemistry at Cambridge, becoming lecturer in 1960; he became a Fellow of Trinity Hall in 1958. His work has been mainly concerned with the kinetics of pyrolysis of hydrocarbons and metal alkyls, and related processes such as inhibition. It has been distinguished by the application of gas chromatography to the analysis of products, which has made possible a more detailed and deeper insight into the mechanisms of reactions than was possible previously. Dr. Purnell's interest in gas chromatography has resulted in his becoming a pioneer not only in its application but also in the understanding of the basic physical chemistry of the technique. It has led him into thermodynamic considerations and the extension of the general techniques to solution and adsorption studies, liquid surface properties and the measurement of molecular weights. He is the author of a distinguished monograph on the subject of gas chromatography. At present he has an active school of research at Cambridge with interests in photolysis at low temperatures, the pyrolysis of olefines, and the simulation of complex chemical reactions by computer techniques. He may be expected to pursue these lines of work, among others, at Swansea.

British Electrical Power Convention

THE seventeenth British Electrical Power Convention was held at the Dome, Brighton, during June 21-24, 1965, and records of the proceedings have recently been made available by the press officer of the Electrical Development Association in London. The presidential address on "Electricity and Economic Policy" was delivered by Sir Ronald Edwards, chairman of the Electricity Council; his theme was the planning of the electricity supply industry to meet a maximum demand of 54,000 MW in 1970 (compared with 30,000 MW in 1964) and the economic and technical factors in such planning; he had much to say on competition in the field of fuel and power, particularly the future of the gas industry which "... will, as soon as it can, turn its back on coal and rebuild its future on oil and natural gas". The Citrine Lecture was presented by Lord Hinton of Bankside, former chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and entitled "The Future of Power Technology"; he considered that future trends of technology in the energy industries depend on a combination of economic, social and commercial factors, remarking that "... the future of the coal industry depends on electricity and the future of gas is part of the future of the oil industry". On the subject of nuclear power, Lord Hinton said that it "... was certainly emerging from its expensive adolescence and should be able to compete commercially with conventional power in favourable conditions before 1975". "The Future of Gas" was the subject of a paper by Sir Henry Jones, chairman of the Gas Council; commenting on the comparative efficiency of gas and electricity production, he said that an engineer may still "question a system