

NEWS AND VIEWS

Royal Society Medallists

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year to Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, F.R.S., for his studies of cosmic rays and the showers of particles which they produce, for his share in the discovery of the positive electron, for his work on mesons and many other experimental achievements, and to Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, F.R.S., for his contributions to the physiology of animal reproduction.

The following awards of medals have been made by the President and Council of the Royal Society: Copley Medal to Prof. P. Langevin, For.Mem.R.S., for his pioneer work in the electron theory of magnetism, his fundamental contributions to discharge of electricity in gases and his important work in many branches of theoretical physics; Rumford Medal to Prof. K. M. G. Siegbahn for his pioneer work in high precision X-ray spectroscopy and its applications; Davy Medal to Prof. H. C. Urey for his isolation of deuterium, the heavy hydrogen isotope, and for his work on the use of this and other isotopes in following the detailed course of chemical reactions; Darwin Medal to Prof. J. P. Hill, F.R.S., for his contributions to problems bearing on the inter-relationships of the main groups of the Mammalia and on the phylogenetic history of the Primates, a subject with which Charles Darwin himself was so much concerned; Sylvester Medal to Prof. G. H. Hardy, F.R.S., for his important contributions to many branches of pure mathematics; Hughes Medal to Prof. A. H. Compton for his discovery of the Compton effect, and for his work on cosmic rays.

The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

IN Dublin, by an act of the Oireachtas, the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies was founded in October. For the time being it consists of two constituent schools, the School of Celtic Studies and the School of Theoretical Physics. The general government of the Institute is entrusted to a Council, to which Rev. P. Browne (chairman), Dr. R. I. Best, Prof. D. A. Binchy, Prof. F. E. W. Hackett, Prof. E. Schrödinger were appointed by the President of Eire, whilst the President of University College, Dublin (Prof. A. W. Conway), the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin (Dr. W. E. Thrift) and the President of the Royal Irish Academy (Eoin MacNeill) are members *ex officio*.

The Institute will provide facilities for advanced studies and research in special branches of knowledge and for the publication of the results of such studies, irrespective of whether they have originated from the

Institute or not. In particular, the scope of the School of Theoretical Physics is described as the investigation of the mathematical principles of natural philosophy and their application to the sciences in which they obtain. Both the training of advanced students in methods of original research and the provision of research facilities for professors and lecturers on leave of absence from their academic duties will be included. Seminars and lectures on topics which lie on the frontiers of knowledge are to be held. Financial aid for producing and publishing works within the scope of the School (but not necessarily originating from it) is envisaged. Admission to the Schools is granted by the Council of the Institute, to which applications, or inquiries of any kind, should be directed (64-65, Merrion Square, Dublin). Moderate fees will be charged, but a limited number of scholarships, including a substantial contribution to maintenance, are available. The first senior professor appointed to the School of Theoretical Physics is Prof. E. Schrödinger, formerly of the University of Graz. Apart from the Council of the Institute mentioned above, each School has a Governing Board. This Board, for the School of Theoretical Physics, includes: Prof. A. W. Conway (chairman), Prof. F. E. W. Hackett, Prof. A. J. M'Connell, Prof. W. H. McCrea (Belfast), Prof. A. O'Rahilly (Cork), Prof. E. T. Whittaker (Edinburgh).

Mr. Roosevelt and the "New Order"

WITH remarkable propriety, the occasion for Mr. Roosevelt's first public address after the presidential election was Armistice Day, November 11, when he spoke at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Arlington Cemetery. Equally appropriate was his choice of a theme—a review of the progress of democracy since the Declaration of Independence, when, as he said, a New Order came into being. In showing how the gospel of democracy has been carried among peoples, great and small, by the Americas, "all of the Americas" and the British Isles with them, the President brought the War of 1914-18 into a truer perspective, not as a useless sacrifice, but as a phase in the resistance to the doctrine that might is right which then made a definite effort to destroy this New Order after its relatively short trial. The struggle of 1914-18, Mr. Roosevelt continued, preserved the New Order of the ages for at least a generation; and had the Axis of 1918 been successful over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been impossible. At the same time, he recognized and impressed upon his hearers the need for great flexibility in the methods of democracy. Certain facts of 1940 did not exist in 1918. There is need for the elimination of aggressive armaments, the breaking down of barriers in a more closely knitted world and a need for restoring honour