

Nigeria; B. G. Crewe, assistant comptroller, Patent Office; W. J. Dawson, late metallurgical director of Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd.; W. S. Gordon, director of the Agricultural Research Council Field Station, Compton; J. Henderson, formerly director of the New Zealand Geological Survey; Mrs. S. Sutherland Isaacs, psychologist, London Clinic of Psycho-Analysis; Dr. L. A. Jordan, director of the Research Association of British Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers; Prof. W. Kerr, Royal Technical College, Glasgow; F. Lambert, president of the Museums Association, director of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; W. L. S. Mackintosh, director of Veterinary Services, Uganda; R. O'F. Oakley, assistant secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Prof. G. W. Robinson, professor of agricultural chemistry, University College of North Wales, Bangor; Prof. C. Y. Shephard, professor of economics, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; G. F. Stebbing, honorary secretary of the Radium Commission; Miss M. V. Taylor, for services to archaeology; J. S. Teasdale, for services to agriculture in Western Australia.

#### Prof. Hamilton Hartridge, F.R.S.

PROF. HAMILTON HARTRIDGE has recently retired from the University chair of physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, in order to take up the post of director of the Medical Research Council's newly constituted research unit on the physiology of vision. The appointment shows the importance which the Medical Research Council attaches to this subject, and is a recognition of Prof. Hartridge's pre-eminent position and his contributions in this field. Educated at Harrow and King's College, Cambridge, Prof. Hartridge has had a distinguished academic and scientific career. A former fellow of King's College, he was lecturer on the organs of special sense and senior demonstrator in physiology at Cambridge at the time when Prof. Langley had surrounded himself with the brilliant team of investigators which included Keith Lucas, A. V. Hill and E. D. Adrian. Although Prof. Hartridge has published many important papers and articles on the physiology of the special senses, his research work has not been entirely confined to this field; the brilliant work which he carried out with Prof. F. J. W. Roughton on the rates of gaseous exchanges of the constituents of the blood is one of many examples of a wide interest in the problems of physiology. An account of Prof. Hartridge's activities would not be complete without reference being made to his great powers of exposition. He has delivered popular lectures at meetings of the British Association, given a course of Christmas Lectures at the Royal Institution and is Gresham professor of physic at Gresham's College in the City of London. After occupying a university chair for twenty years (1927-47), Prof. Hartridge carries with him the good wishes of a wide circle of friends for a continuation of his outstanding experimental work.

#### British Welding Research Association: Dr. H. G. Taylor

THE Council of the British Welding Research Association announces the appointment of Dr. H. G. Taylor as director in succession to Mr. A. Ramsey-Moon, who has been with the Association from its earliest stages and whose resignation has been announced. Dr. Taylor joined Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., at Barrow-in-Furness in 1921, and three years later

obtained the firm's scholarship, with which he entered the University of London, graduating with first class honours in electrical engineering. He was awarded a Royal Scholarship and conducted research at the City and Guilds of London Institute, receiving the degree of M.Sc. (Eng.) for a thesis on the collection of current from commutators and slip rings. Joining Messrs. Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., as a college apprentice, he was later posted to the Research Department. In 1929 he joined the staff of the Electrical Research Association to start investigations on earthing, and many reports have since been published on this subject. With these Dr. Taylor was associated, and for them he received the degree of doctor of science in engineering of the University of London. In 1937, he was appointed electrical engineer to the Copper Development Association, and it was here that he commenced his connexion with the welding industry. This has been continued in his appointments as technical adviser to Philips Industrial Co., Ltd., and as manager of the Industrial Development Department of Philips Lamps, Ltd., in which posts he has been closely connected with the latest developments in arc and resistance welding.

#### Biochemistry in the University of California: Prof. W. M. Stanley

DR. WENDELL M. STANLEY, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed professor of biochemistry in the University of California at Berkeley and director of a new Virus Laboratory which will undertake a programme of research on viruses affecting plants, animals and man. The new virus research centre is regarded as a major effort on the part of the University of California. Prof. Stanley, who is forty-three years old, was awarded a share of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1946, for his work on the isolation, in pure form for the first time, of a virus, the tobacco mosaic virus (see *Nature*, 158, 826; 1946).

Since this early work, which began in 1935, Prof. Stanley has remained in the forefront of research in his field. The isolation of viruses and the consequent determination of their physical properties opened the possibility of systematically producing chemical modifications of the disease agents for use as antigens in immunization. Prof. Stanley has already altered the chemical structure of the tobacco mosaic virus by means of known chemical reactions. He has also shown that mutation in viruses is accompanied by certain definite changes in chemical structure. During the War, Prof. Stanley and his colleagues developed an efficient method of producing a centrifuge-type influenza virus vaccine which was used in the Armed Services and is now available for civilian use.

#### U.S. National Academy of Sciences: Medal Awards

THE Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal for 1945 of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences has been presented to Prof. Sewall Wright, Ernest D. Burton distinguished service professor, University of Chicago, for his fundamental work dealing with the genetics of evolutionary processes, a programme based on work over a long period, including his paper "The Differential Equation of the Distribution of Gene Frequencies" (*Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 31, No. 12; 1945). In making the presentation, Prof. Th. Dobzhansky said that in a series of papers published during the last twenty-five