

### Kelvin Medal Award: Prof. T. von Kármán, For.Mem.R.S.

THE Kelvin Medal Award Committee, consisting of the presidents of the Institutions of Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Naval Architects, Mining and Metallurgy, Mining Engineers, Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, and the Iron and Steel Institute, has awarded the Kelvin Gold Medal for 1950 to Prof. Theodore von Kármán, of the California Institute of Technology, in recognition of the eminent services he has rendered to engineering science in those branches of engineering with which Lord Kelvin was especially identified, and to commemorate which this Medal was instituted. The Kelvin Gold Medal is awarded triennially, the last award being to Sir Frank Whittle in 1947. Prof. von Kármán is an authority on the mathematical theory of hydrodynamics and aerodynamics and its applications, and was elected a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1946 (see *Nature*, 157, 688; 1946).

### University College, Ibadan: Endowment Fund

THE Nigerian Cocoa Marketing Board has contributed £1,000,000 to help endow the Department of Agriculture at University College, Ibadan. The Board is to establish a trust to administer the fund and will also set aside £50,000 of the grant for initial expenditure on agricultural buildings and equipment. This munificent gift follows a number of similar endowments made by the Board within the past three years: £225,000 in 1949 to provide in perpetuity a total of fifteen free places for the sons and daughters of cocoa farmers at University College, Ibadan; £25,000 in 1948 to finance a survey of the economy of the cocoa-producing areas of Nigeria and, in the same year, subsidies to farmers in compensation for the cutting out of diseased trees amounting to £150,000; a £310,000 grant in 1947 towards the endowment of the West African Cocoa Research Institute. During the course of the next few years the Board will also have helped to finance the building of new roads and to improve existing ones to the extent of £500,000. The Board has now given nearly £3,000,000, since its formation in 1947, for the benefit of Nigerian cocoa interests. Other costs for buildings and equipment at University College, Ibadan, are being met with a grant of £1,500,000 by the United Kingdom Government. Current expenses for a period of five years have been guaranteed by an annual grant of £100,000 from the Nigerian Government, which is also making an initial grant of £250,000 to the College Endowment Fund.

### Cotton Research Station, Namulonge, Uganda

IN the presence of many distinguished guests, among whom were representatives of the Colonial Office, the Cotton Board, the Raw Cotton Commission and the East African High Commission, together with agricultural officials from the cotton-growing Colonies of the British Commonwealth, the Sudan and from French, Belgian and Portuguese territories in Africa, the new Cotton Research Station at Namulonge, Uganda, of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation was officially opened by the Governor of Uganda, Sir John Hathorn Hall, on November 9. The Station is staffed by the Corporation, and the capital cost and running expenses are found by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, the Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust and the Raw Cotton Commission, besides the Governments of the British cotton-growing

Colonies in Africa, the Sudan Government and the Corporation itself, assisted by a grant from the Cotton Board. The Station, sixteen miles from Kampala, comprises more than 2,200 acres of land, of which it is hoped that 1,500 acres will eventually be under cultivation. The main building consists of laboratories totalling 15,000 sq. ft. in floor area and split up into sections to house the various scientific departments. The work of the Station will not be confined to the Uganda crop, but will also cover basic problems affecting the other African territories. Its establishment has been preceded by nearly twenty years of important research in Trinidad into the life-history of the cotton plant, and by even longer periods of practical work at experiment stations in South Africa and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. At present, in addition to Uganda, the staff of the Corporation are stationed in the Sudan, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Nigeria and the West Indies, where they work in close co-operation on cotton breeding and the many other problems which confront the grower.

### Nigerian Broadcasting Service

MR. T. W. CHALMERS, controller of the Light Programme of the British Broadcasting Corporation, has been appointed head of the new Nigerian Broadcasting Service. He will have to build up a system that will cover 370,000 square miles, providing broadcasts in at least ten different languages to a population of 25 millions. He will have to encourage the formation of community receiving centres in remote villages, and the import and sale of cheap radio sets such as the so-called 'saucepan special' which has been well tried in Northern Rhodesia. There is at the moment only one wireless transmitting station in the Colony, 'Radio Nigeria', a low-power experimental unit situated in Lagos and serving some 1,800 listeners, who, however, can also receive the programmes of the B.B.C.'s Overseas Service. In addition, daily programmes are transmitted over a wired broadcasting system from local studios to ten towns in the Colony, where they can be heard on 9,300 loudspeakers. Only 0.2 per cent of the population can listen to broadcasting of any kind. The present scheme is designed to expand the transmission of programmes, both by radio and line. Two broadcasting engineers, Mr. L. W. Turner, of the B.B.C., and Mr. F. A. W. Byron, of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, carried out a technical survey last year under the auspices of the Colonial Office and the Nigerian Government. Six wireless stations will be built at a capital cost of about £350,000, to be shared by the Nigerian Government and the United Kingdom, the latter making a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. Work will begin at once on two short-wave stations at Lagos and at Kaduna in the north. These stations should be working within eighteen months, and another short-wave and the three medium-wave stations will follow later.

### Royal Society of South Africa: New Fellows

THE following have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of South Africa: Dr. G. W. Bond, for investigations in geochemistry, the chemistry of ground-water, the treatment of water supplied for power production and corrosion problems arising therefrom; Dr. J. Day, for zoological research, more especially in the fields of marine biology and ecology; Prof. G. A. Elliott, for research into cardiology and rheumatoid arthritis, and for his administrative