

Edney has excelled by his wide knowledge and interest in all fields of the subject, including the complex problems of primate evolution, and by his qualities as a teacher of undergraduate and post-graduate students. He is also an experienced and capable administrator, and his dispassionate matter-of-factness has always been greatly appreciated by his colleagues in committee. When the foundation of a new University College on the African Continent had become a welcome reality, the question of who would be made responsible for the development of teaching and research in the biological sciences was a matter of great interest in view of the natural opportunities offered at Salisbury. Those responsible for the present appointment are to be congratulated on having made a most appropriate choice.

#### Prof. A. S. Boughey

IN appointing Prof. A. S. Boughey to its chair of botany, the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has selected a botanist with a wide experience of tropical Africa, and a background which should prove most valuable in this post. After taking a research degree at Edinburgh, Prof. Boughey proceeded to the Sudan, where he spent the war years as plant pathologist in the Department of Agriculture. He returned to Britain to teach botany in the University College of the South-West; but when the University College of the Gold Coast was established in 1948, he was one of the first appointments to the staff, as professor of botany. During the following years, he succeeded in building up a strong department which, though in temporary premises, was well equipped and well staffed, and soon became an efficient instrument of teaching and research. While in the Gold Coast, Prof. Boughey gave particular attention to developing a herbarium as a research tool, and to establishing a large botanical garden. In recent years, his research interests have mainly been in descriptive ecology; he has studied the vegetation types along the Guinea coast, and has given special attention to altitudinal zonation in the mountain massifs of West Africa, particularly the Cameroons Mountain. He will take to Salisbury experience from two other very different parts of the African continent, and a record of success in building up a new botany department from the foundations under similar conditions. This should augur well for the future of botany in Rhodesia.

#### Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

FURTHER details have recently been announced on the International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which will be held in Geneva during August 8-20 (see *Nature*, April 9, p. 615) in association with two exhibitions (see *Nature*, May 28, p. 929). The official delegation from Great Britain will consist of Sir John Cockcroft, director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell; Sir Christopher Hinton, managing director of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Industrial Group; Dr. J. F. Loutit, of the Medical Research Council and Agricultural Research Council; Sir George Thomson, of the Royal Society, representing British universities; and Dr. Willis Jackson, of Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., representing British industry. Sir Edwin Plowden, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, will also attend, and advisers to the delegation will include representatives of the Atomic Energy Authority Research and Industrial Groups, the Chemical Research

Laboratory, the Medical and Agricultural Research Councils, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the Institution of Civil Engineers, British universities and a number of industrial concerns. The total number of delegates, advisers and staff for the conference and exhibitions, excluding the industrial representatives attending the exhibitions, will be more than a hundred and sixty. More than a hundred papers were submitted to the United Kingdom Papers Committee, and sixty-seven will be read, the remainder being included in the report of the proceedings which will be published. Including those from Britain, more than a thousand papers were submitted altogether, and, of those selected for reading, more than seventy will be from the U.S.S.R. and about a hundred and seventy from the United States. Other countries presenting papers are: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Israel, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, The Argentine, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

#### Pan-Malayan Scientific Advisory Council

As a result of a suggestion made by the Commission on University Education in Malaya that a scientific advisory council should be set up, representing the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Singapore and the University of Malaya and including experts from the planting and mining industries and the fields of agriculture and medicine, the Pan-Malayan Scientific Advisory Council has been formed, with the Chancellor of the University of Malaya as president. Its functions are to promote the spread of scientific information; to advise on scientific problems relating to Malaya; and to advise on, and assist in, the co-ordination and finance of scientific research, with power to receive and administer endowments, donations and grants. Participation in the work of the Council and its Committees by the Governments of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei will be welcomed, if they so desire. The main work of the Scientific Advisory Council will be undertaken by technical committees, six of which have been set up, each under its own chairman, as follows: *Animal and Vegetable Life and Resources*, Mr. D. W. Le Mare, P.O. Box 459, Penang; *Medical and Veterinary*, Dr. J. W. Field, Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur; *Economic Affairs*, Sir Sydney Caine, University of Malaya, Singapore; *Mineral Resources*, Prof. E. H. G. Dobby, University of Malaya, Singapore; *Physical Sciences*, Prof. R. A. Robinson, University of Malaya, Singapore; *Social Science and Anthropology*, Prof. T. H. Silcock, University of Malaya, Singapore. The chairmen of the six technical committees, together with three representatives from the Government of the Federation of Malaya, two from the Government of Singapore and two from the University of Malaya, form a Central Committee, under the chairmanship of the Assistant Commissioner-General for Colonial Affairs. The technical secretary of the Pan-Malayan Scientific Advisory Council is Dr. Kiang Ai Kim, of the University of Malaya, Singapore.

#### Veterinary Reviews and Annotations

VETERINARIANS and all those who are in any way interested in the welfare of domesticated animals will welcome the appearance of the new half-yearly journal, *Veterinary Reviews and Annotations*, published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau,