

Nuclear Power at the Imperial College, London :

Prof. J. M. Kay

THE University of London has announced the appointment of Dr. J. M. Kay to the newly instituted chair of nuclear power at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. This will provide a focus in the College for study and interest in the fundamentals of nuclear power and in the engineering techniques involved. It will operate through post-graduate courses and research, and will maintain close liaison with all the Departments of Engineering and with those of Physics and Chemistry. Dr. Kay, who is thirty-five, graduated in the University of Cambridge, where he later held a University demonstratorship in chemical engineering. In 1952 he was appointed chief technical engineer of the Industrial Group of the Department of Atomic Energy at Risley, Lancashire; since 1955 he has acted as a consultant in the field of nuclear power and in related industries.

University of Khartoum Bill

A BILL converting the University College of Khartoum into a University has been passed by both Houses of the Sudanese Parliament and submitted to the five Supreme Counsellors, in whom the presidential powers are vested, for their assent. The special relationship with the University of London, introduced in 1947, will cease, except in regard to students already registered, and the new University will award its own degrees and institute honours courses. Its budget for the next three years has been approved by the Sudanese Cabinet. When the Bill conferring university status comes into effect in the near future, Khartoum will be the first of the six overseas university colleges in special relationship with the University of London to assume university status. It will continue, however, to appoint external examiners from London as well as from other universities, and English will still be the language of instruction except in the Departments of Arabic and Sharia (Islamic) Law. The University will retain full autonomy, with executive powers vested in a council electing its own chairman and empowered to nominate a chancellor for appointment by the Supreme Council. Other Council members will include the vice-chancellor, treasurer, warden, members of the academic staff, nominees of Sudanese public and other bodies, and certain persons co-opted from the professions. The principal of the College, Prof. Michael Grant—on leave of absence from the chair of humanity in the University of Edinburgh—will become vice-chancellor. About three-quarters of the teaching staff are British, the remainder being mostly Sudanese (including three professors) and Egyptian. Appointments to twenty-four vacant posts have recently been offered. At the beginning of the new session there are expected to be 875 students in the University's seven faculties—an increase of about 170. It has developed from the former Gordon Memorial College, inaugurated in 1903 and extended to include the Higher Schools in various subjects (1945), and the Kitchener School of Medicine (1951), of which the final diploma is recognized by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

Colonial Development Corporation

REPLYING for the Government in a debate on the Colonial Development Corporation in the House of Lords on June 20, Lord Lloyd, the Under-Secretary

of State for the Colonies, said that there was no doubt that certain of the Corporation's activities, which the Secretary of State had been advised were *ultra vires* in relation to the Overseas Resources Development Act, 1948, were desirable from the point of view of the development of the Colonial territories. This legal opinion was disputed by the Corporation, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies accordingly proposed to introduce legislation to put the issue beyond legal doubt. A Bill had already been drafted, and the Government hoped to introduce such legislation before the end of the session. It was the Government's view that nothing should stand in the way of such legislation to validate actions which have been taken by the Corporation and are assumed to be *ultra vires*.

Atompraxis : New German Monthly Periodical on Atomic Energy

WITH the release at last year's Geneva Conference of much scientific and technical information concerning reactors and the peaceful uses of atomic energy, interest has been stimulated in many countries, and several new periodicals devoted to the study of individual branches of the subject have recently been launched. In Germany, where interest in nuclear science and engineering need no longer be purely academic, the new illustrated monthly periodical, *Atompraxis*, should prove most valuable in providing a medium for the dissemination and discussion of basic material and of new developments. The periodical is published by Verlag G. Braun, price DM 3.50 a number or DM 36 a year, and is obtainable in Britain through I. R. Maxwell and Co., Ltd., of London. The first number (pp. 40) contains articles on the use of radioactive isotopes in engineering, industry and hydraulics; safety and protection problems arising in reactor projects; the therapeutic use of the short-lived yttrium-90 isotope as a strong beta-emitter; fundamentals, practice and problems of sterilization and preservation by gamma radiation; and a review of the Geneva conference. One section is devoted to short summaries of important articles selected from other periodicals, and another to brief reports of the proceedings of conferences and society meetings. The editor, Dr. E. H. Graul, of Marburg, is assisted by Dr. K. Kaindl, of Linz, and Dr. A. Montens, of Essen.

Recent Donations to the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh

DURING recent months the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, has been enriched by several important gifts. These include the large and important collection of cetacean remains formed by the late Sir William Turner, principal of the University of Edinburgh, which has been presented by the University; the large collection of bird-skins, numbering nearly eight thousand, mainly from North Africa and Sicily, formed by the late Joseph I. S. Whitaker and containing Lord Lilford's collection, presented by Miss D. Whitaker, of Rome; a small collection of bird-skins from Cyprus formed by Mr. G. F. Wilson, of the Cyprus Secretariat, presented by Mr. H. F. Zetter on behalf of the English School, Nicosia; the collection of bird eggs formed by the late Sir Maurice Denny and bequeathed by him to the Museum; the collection of British Crustacea formed by the late Thomas Scott, of the former Fishery Board for Scotland, presented by Dr. C. E. Lucas, of the Scottish Home