

major publications are *Ballistics in the Seventeenth Century* and *The Scientific Revolution, 1500-1800*. He was one of the co-editors of *A History of Technology* published in five volumes during the 1950's. Among Prof. Marie Boas Hall's works are *Robert Boyle and Seventeenth Century Chemistry* and the recent *The Scientific Renaissance 1450-1630*, Vol. 2 of *The Rise of Modern Science*.

The new department will at first be chiefly concerned with research, and postgraduate education in research methods. Its primary objectives will be the training of future historians of science and technology, and the introduction of scientists and engineers to these studies. A generous contribution towards the cost of maintaining the new department has been made by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., which recently supported the study of the history of technology by subsidizing some valuable publications, including the major *History of Technology* already mentioned.

#### Materials Science and Engineering at M.I.T. :

Prof. R. A. Smith, C.B.E., F.R.S.

PROF. ROBERT ALLAN SMITH, known for his work on semiconductor and infra-red physics, has been appointed the first director of the new Center for Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith will also hold a simultaneous appointment as professor of physics in the Institute. He carried out pioneer radar research for the British Government during 1939-46, and from 1947 until 1961 was head of the Physics Department in the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern. He spent the year 1961-62 as professor of physics in the University of Sheffield (see *Nature*, 190, 960; 1961).

#### Director-General of the Indian C.I.S.R. :

Dr. Syed Husain Zaheer

DR. SYED HUSAIN ZAHEER, director, Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, has been appointed director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. He took charge of his office on September 1. Born on November 7, 1901, Dr. Zaheer was educated at Lucknow, Oxford and Heidelberg. From 1930 until 1946 he was reader in organic chemistry, Lucknow University, and two years later he became professor of organic chemistry. In 1948 he became director of the Central Laboratories for Scientific and Industrial Research, Hyderabad, which were later to become the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. During the fourteen years of his directorship he built up the Regional Research Laboratory as one of the foremost centres for pilot plant and developmental research in India. Dr. Zaheer has been responsible for many important industrial development projects in India, and also for the preparation of project reports and blueprints for starting many new industries in India. In 1954 he undertook a study of post-war German industry as a Senior United Nations Fellow and visited West Germany and Finland in 1955 to study plants and techniques for the utilization of low-grade coals at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Zaheer is a member or president of numerous learned societies.

#### CERN Research Directorate : Prof. G. Puppi

PROF. G. PUPPI recently joined CERN as a member of the directorate for research. Early next spring he will replace Prof. Gilberto Bernardini, who returns to

his chair of physics at the University of Rome. Prof. Giampietro Puppi was born on November 20, 1917, in Bologna, Italy. He studied at the University of Padova under Bruno Rossi and Gian Carlo Wick. After the War, he was lecturer at the Universities of Bari, Bologna, Rome and Padova. In 1950 he was appointed to the chair of theoretical physics in the University of Naples. Since 1953, Prof. Puppi has been professor of higher physics and director of the Physics Institute in the University of Bologna. He will resume these responsibilities in October 1963. Prof. Puppi's research work has been mainly in the fields of cosmic rays and sub-nuclear particles.

#### The Strangeways Research Laboratory

THE Strangeways Research Laboratory, founded originally as a research hospital and now famous all over the world as a centre of tissue culture and cell biology, has recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by the publication of a short history of its development (*History of the Strangeways Research Laboratory (formerly Cambridge Research Hospital), 1912-1962*. Pp. 38 + 5 plates. Cambridge: Strangeways Research Laboratory, 1962). The part of the history from 1905-26 has been written by Mrs. Strangeways, the widow of the founder and still a guiding spirit, well known to the workers in the Laboratory. It is a remarkable document and might be read with profit by all young doctors and research workers of to-day. The devotion and perseverance displayed by Dr. T. S. P. Strangeways and his wife in the pursuit of their goal of establishing a research hospital is almost incredible. Perhaps it is best illustrated by the following extract from the history. "Indeed, to launch the Scheme, we were spending one-third of our income of £150 per annum upon it, and we had two children. He [T. S. P. Strangeways] approached his Class and asked if they would back the project to the extent of £5 each; this they agreed to do, but I am thankful to say that they were never called upon." Needless to say, the scheme was launched, and how the institution has evolved and progressed is well told in the two other chapters of this slim but fascinating volume [see also p. 316 of this issue of *Nature*].

#### British Participation in the Indian Ocean Expedition

THE Royal Society and the British National Committee for Oceanic Research have announced proposals for United Kingdom participation in the International Indian Ocean Expedition which is supported by Unesco and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Altogether, forty ships carrying scientists and specialized equipment from more than twenty countries are expected to take part. Most of the United Kingdom effort will be made in the Arabian Sea, between Africa, India and Ceylon, and will be based principally on two of H.M. Survey Vessels, H.M.S. *Owen* and H.M.S. *Dabrymple*, together with the National Institute of Oceanography's new research vessel R.R.S. *Discovery*. This extension of international co-operative research to oceanography will cover all aspects of marine science. The Indian Ocean is particularly suited to such an investigation on account of the nature of its current systems, and the information to be gained concerning the interaction between winds, climate and general circulation. The economic importance of its potential fishing grounds is already apparent, and chemical and biological measurements will increase basic know-