

PROFESSOR P. M. S. BLACKETT, F.R.S., WINS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

THE Nobel Prize for Physics has been awarded to Professor P. M. S. Blackett, who was in India recently to advise the Ministry of Defence in the building up of a sound scientific organisation. In 1947, when he attended the Indian Science Congress, an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Delhi was conferred on this British scientist of world fame.

Professor Blackett, who is 51, came into prominence during the summer of last year when he announced a new fundamental law in Physics. Scientific publications all over the world hailed it as one of the major discoveries of the century and compared the new knowledge gained with such achievements as Newton's law of gravitation, the second law of thermodynamics, Faraday's discovery of the correlation of magnetism and electricity, Maxwell's electromagnetic theory of light, and certain aspects of Einstein's theory of relativity.

Professor Blackett's new law furnished an explanation of terrestrial magnetism, establishing a connection for the first time between two fields of Physics—mechanics and electromagnetism.

Throughout World War II, Prof. Blackett was engaged on highly secret research work for the British Government. He had already gained a world-wide reputation for his work on atomic physics, especially on positive electrons and cosmic rays. Early in the war he was attached to the Admiralty, thus renewing his old association with the Navy, for Blackett began life as a sailor.

In 1933, Blackett was elected F.R.S., and became Professor of Physics at Birkbeck College, University of London. He remained there until 1937; at the same time he continued his research, spending part of his time in a laboratory set up on a disused platform of the Underground Station at Holborn. In 1934 he addressed the International Conference of Physics, held at the Royal Institution, describing the results of his research on cosmic rays. His work was recognised in 1940 by the award of the Royal Medal of the Royal Society.

He has been Professor of Physics at Manchester University since 1937 and has received some of the highest honours both in his own country and in the United States.

FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

Date	Year	Sponsored by	Place	Title
May	1949			Pan-American Research Conference.
May 16-	"	ECOSOC	U.S.A.	U. N. Conference on Conservation and Utilisation of Natural Resources.
June 3	"			Committee on Science and its Social Relations.
June 14-16	"	ICSU	Paris	International Conference on "Science Abstracting".
June 20-25	"	UNESCO	"	XIIth International Dairy Congress.
Aug. 15-19	"		Stockholm (Sweden)	XVth General Conference, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.
Sept. 6-10	"	IUC	Amsterdam (Holland)	General Assembly, International Council of Scientific Unions.
Sept. 14-16	"	ICSU	Copenhagen (Denmark)	Vth International Congress on Animal Husbandry
Oct.	"		Paris	VIIth Pacific Science Congress.
Oct.	"			IVth International Congress of Soil Science.
July 7-	1950		Amsterdam (Holland)	
Aug. 1	1950	IUBS	Stockholm (Sweden)	General Assembly, International Union of Biological Sciences.
	1950		Stockholm (Sweden)	VIIth International Botanical Congress.
	1950	IUHS	Bucarest	International Congress of History of Science.
	1950	IUBS	Rio de Janeiro	Vth International Congress of Microbiology.
Probable July..	1950		London (England)	IV World Power Conference.
Aug. 30-	1950		Cambridge (U.S.A.)	Congress International de Mathematiques.
Sept. 6				
Sept. 8-17	1951	IUC	Washington and New York (U.S.A.)	XIIth Congress and XVIth Conference, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.