

SCIENCE AND THE NATION

ON December 2, 1943, an Italian-born scientist, Enrico Fermi, working in Chicago University for the American Government, first demonstrated with his uranium-graphite reactor that he could release nuclear energy, could control it and also stop it. His success was immediately reported to those few concerned in the secret project in a code message particularly apt for the birth of the new nuclear age: "The Italian navigator has just landed in the new world."

Sir Edward Appleton, introducing the 1956 Reith Lectures, *Science and the Nation*, in the *Radio Times*, uses Fermi's nuclear plant and its direct though immensely more powerful descendant Calder Hall Power Station as examples to illustrate his thesis that the large-scale pattern of scientific research is a "national triangle . . . with three equal sides" that has "University Science, Government Science and Industrial Science situated respectively at its three corners."

For Fermi, he explains, had a number of basic scientific discoveries made by others as well as himself to prompt him to this work, discoveries made by people in universities and similar institutions whose aim had been "not to dis-

close a new source of energy," but to do research—pure research—into the nature of atomic nuclei.

As soon as the suggestion of a practical usefulness arose, however, both the American and English Governments supported the idea of turning the prospect into a reality. Calder Hall is that reality, designed by the Atomic Energy Authority, but consisting of material components built by British industry.

The three respective research organisations of University, Government and Industry, and their inter-relationship, are all considered in detail in these Reith Lectures, as well as the connection between the results wished for and the problems chosen in all three cases.

The first talk of *Science and the Nation* will be heard from 1YC at 10.20 p.m., Thursday, September 26, and

the second the following Saturday (September 28) at 10.0 p.m. The titles of the six lectures in the series are as follows: "Our National Need of Science," "The Lessons of War," "Science for Its Own Sake," "Science for a Purpose (1)—Government Science," "Science for a Purpose (2)—Industrial Science," and "Science and Education." The series will begin later from other YCs.

RIGHT: Sir Edward Appleton broadcasting one of his Reith Lectures



BBC photograph



LAURIE LEE (above), who will still be remembered by many listeners for his verse chronicle *The Voyage of Magellan*, is the author of a new programme, *Black Saturday, Red Sunday*, to be heard from 1YC next week. *Black Saturday, Red Sunday*, is a portrait of Southern Spain, or to be more exact, the province of Andalusia, and Laurie Lee should know Spain fairly well. In his younger days he spent a year there, playing the violin for a living. During the Easter season of 1956 he made numerous recordings of traditional celebrations, and with a background of guitars, castanets, trumpets and local singers, he tells of the contrasts and paradoxes of Spain today. Besides the dancing, the bullfights and the swagger of the fiesta, there is the sight of men sitting in the cafés; men with loose and useless arms, tapping their feet, staring at the walls and waiting. It is not boredom that claims them, says Mr Lee. They are waiting for their resurrection. . . . Felix Felton plays the part of the Traveller, and production is by Louis MacNeice. *Black Saturday, Red Sunday*, will be heard, at 10.0 p.m., from 1YC on September 24.

N.Z. LISTENER, SEPTEMBER 20, 1957

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