

NEWS and VIEWS

Institution of Electrical Engineers: Awards

SIR HARRY RAILING has been elected to honorary membership of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for his services to the electrical engineering profession and to the science, and for his services to the Institution. The Faraday Medal of the Institution has been awarded to Sir A. Stanley Angwin for his outstanding contributions to the development of telecommunications in Great Britain and in the international and inter-continental fields.

Sir Harry Railing

BORN in 1878 and educated at the University of Munich, Sir Harry Railing received his early training and practical experience on the Continent of Europe and in the United States. In 1905 he went to the Witton Engineering Works of the General Electric Co., Ltd., to take charge of the test department and laboratories, and in 1911 he was made a director and placed in charge at Witton, where he remained for twenty years, a period of rapid expansion and development. In 1933 he left Witton for London, although he continued to control the organization of the Witton Works, and in 1941 was appointed joint general manager of the Company, becoming successively vice-chairman and then chairman and joint managing director. He was knighted in 1944. Sir Harry became a member of the Institution in 1912 and has held numerous offices, including the presidency (1944). He was also chairman of the Council of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association during 1944-45 and was elected president last year.

Sir Stanley Angwin, K.B.E.

SIR STANLEY ANGWIN was born at Penzance in 1883 and was educated at Queen Mary College, London. After being a pupil of Messrs. Yarrow and Co., engineers and shipbuilders, he joined the Post Office Engineering Department in 1906. During the First World War he served in the Middle East and France in the 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals and was awarded the M.C. and D.S.O. He then returned to the Post Office Engineering Department, joining the wireless section, which at that time was being expanded, and played a major part in the design and construction of the Leafield, Cairo and Rugby radio stations and in the inauguration of the trans-Atlantic telephone service. Sir Stanley became assistant engineer-in-chief of the Post Office in 1932, deputy engineer-in-chief three years later, and then engineer-in-chief during 1939-46. During the tenure of this last-named post, for the most part held during the stress of war, many significant technical developments took place, including the introduction and expansion of the short-wave overseas radio-telephone services which have given Great Britain so important a position in world telephony, and the adoption of the coaxial cable system as a normal method of providing trunk-line communications. Sir Stanley was knighted in 1941 and received the K.B.E. in 1945. He was president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1943.

Experimental Physics in University College, Dublin:
Prof. T. E. Nevin

DR. T. E. NEVIN, who has succeeded the late Prof. J. J. Nolan in the chair of experimental physics in University College, Dublin, graduated in the National

University of Ireland in 1927. His first research was done on atmospheric electricity, under Prof. Nolan. In 1929, however, he was awarded an 1851 Exhibition, and during the tenure of this, under Prof. A. Fowler at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, and afterwards in Dublin, he has made many important analyses of band spectra. University College possesses a 21-ft. Rowland grating which has been used by him to unravel some very complex spectra, including negative bands of oxygen and bands of manganese hydride and deuteride. Prof. Nevin has also constructed a very large vacuum spectrograph, which is likely to come into use shortly. In recent years he has made experimental investigations of cosmic rays, in association with Prof. C. B. E. McCusker, of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Prof. Nevin has been a member of staff of the Physics Department of University College since 1931. He was elected to membership of the Royal Irish Academy in 1942, and has twice been a member of its Council. Since 1943, he has been a member of the governing board of various schools of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, and has delivered lectures on special topics under the auspices of the Institute.

Mathematics at the Royal Technical College,
Glasgow: Dr. D. C. Pack

THE governors of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, have appointed Dr. Donald Cecil Pack, lecturer in mathematics in the University of Manchester, to the chair of mathematics in the College. Dr. Pack won an open scholarship in mathematics to New College, Oxford, and took his B.A. with first-class honours in mathematics in 1941. The degree of D.Sc., for a thesis on a subject in the field of compressible flow and shock waves, was conferred on him by the University of St. Andrews in 1951. In the Second World War he served with the Ordnance Board during 1941-43, working on ballistics and the trajectories of shells. Later, as a scientific officer with the Ministry of Supply, he was engaged in research on gas dynamics with particular reference to supersonic flow and the effect of shock waves. He was also concerned with researches on problems relating to the penetration of armour. When the War ended Dr. Pack spent some time on supersonic research at the German supersonic station at Völkenrode. He is the author of numerous publications in the field of gas dynamics, supersonic flow, propagation of shock waves and related problems. During 1947-51 he was a lecturer in mathematics in the University of St. Andrews, and during 1951-52 was a visiting research associate professor at the University of Maryland.

Atomic Energy for Industrial Power and other Uses

IN reply to a question from Mr. Hector Hughes in the House of Commons on January 26, as to what progress had been made in British national research stations towards solving the problem of using atomic energy for industrial, travel and other peaceful purposes, the Minister of Supply, Mr. Duncan Sandys, said that the novel problems raised in the production of electrical power from atomic energy have been studied in the light of experience gained with the graphite piles at Harwell and at Windscale. Valuable discussions have also been had with Canadian experts about the results obtained in the operation of their heavy-water reactor at Chalk River, Ontario. The most certain method of generating power from atomic energy would be to build an improved type