

NEWS and VIEWS

Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1956

THE Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1956 has been divided between Dr. Werner Forssman, of Bad Kreuznach, West Germany, and Prof. Andre Courmand and Prof. D. W. Richards, jun, both of the School of Medicine, Columbia University, New York. The award has been given for their work on the catheterization of the heart and pathological changes in the circulatory system.

Institute of Personnel Management: New Director

MR. LESLIE STEPHENS, principal of Fircroft Working Men's College, Birmingham, has been appointed director of the Institute of Personnel Management in succession to Mr. M. B. Forman, who is taking up an appointment with the Staff Department at the headquarters of the National Coal Board, where he will be mainly concerned with staff planning. Mr. Stephens, who is forty-seven, is a graduate of Hertford College, Oxford, and has taken the business administration course at the London School of Economics. Before going to Fircroft Working Men's College in 1946, he was for seven years with the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour. He is the author of an Occasional Paper (1956) of the Institute, "Employment of Coloured Workers in the Birmingham Area".

Electronic Computing Laboratory of the University of Leeds: Dr. A. S. Douglas

THE University of Leeds has recently announced that a Ferranti 'Pegasus' electronic digital computer has been ordered for installation in the autumn of 1957, and that Dr. A. S. Douglas has been appointed director of the new electronic computing laboratory within the Department of Mathematics. The 'Pegasus' is a medium-sized general-purpose computer, capable of adding or multiplying at the rate of about a thousand ten-figure numbers per second, and will be used not only for the researches of scientific and technological departments in the University but also for industrial and commercial organizations in the Leeds region which have problems calling for high-speed and complex calculations. Although this will be the first electronic computer to be installed in Leeds, members of the University already have had considerable experience of the use of the machine which has been available for some time in the University of Manchester and which is the prototype from which the design of the faster 'Pegasus' has been developed. During the past four years members of the Chemistry Department at Leeds have solved many difficult problems of molecular structure by means of the Manchester machine, and similarly in the Department of Textile Industries a problem concerning the drying processes in paper mills has been solved, one set of calculations for which took only 36 minutes on the computer compared with the many months of desk calculation formerly necessary. The computer will cost about £50,000, a large part of which is being met by a grant from the University Grants Committee; the University hopes that industrial and commercial organizations interested in high-speed computing will give additional aid.

Dr. Douglas is on the staff of the University of Cambridge Mathematical Laboratory and is a Fellow and Junior Bursar of Trinity College, Cambridge. He will take up his appointment in Leeds

in September 1957, and will be available for consultation during the intervening period while the computer is being installed and the laboratory equipped and staffed.

Journal of Technology

THE first number of a new half-yearly *Journal of Technology* was published for the Bengal Engineering College in June. It is regrettable that no statement of editorial policy has been included in this number, although the cover pages include useful and detailed instructions to prospective authors. It is not, however, stated whether the *Journal* is intended to be a medium for the publication of papers from the Bengal Engineering College or whether it is intended to cater for a wider field of authors. On the other hand, it is stated on the cover page that the subject-matter is intended to include original research contributions in science and technology, and this intention is fulfilled in the first number, which includes six papers on original research in electrical engineering, geophysics, civil engineering, applied mathematics and applied mechanics. There are also two letters from the Departments of Chemistry and Metallurgy. The technical standard of the contributions is high, the English is good, except for a few minor points, and there is only a very small number of printing errors. A small page-size, 10 in. by 7 in., has been adopted and columns avoided, while a pleasing contrast has been achieved between the print and the paper. The figures are clearly printed and adequate space has been allowed for these and for the tables. At the end of the number are given about eighty short abstracts of publications in other journals. The value of these would be greatly enhanced if the basis of selection was stated. This is an attractive periodical which deserves to succeed, and which should prove valuable to British readers wishing to acquaint themselves with some of the research work being undertaken in India.

Regional Library Systems of Great Britain

THE function and structure of the regional library systems of the United Kingdom, including a section on the support received from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and on the work of the National Committee on Regional Library Co-operation, are described in Library Association Pamphlet No. 2, "The Regional Library Systems" (pp. 71; 7s., or 5s. to members of the Association; 1956), which is a second edition of the pamphlet that first appeared in 1950. Developments since Mr. R. F. Vollans's report on library co-operation in Great Britain was published in 1952 and current problems are discussed in a final chapter, while an introduction directs attention to certain improvements since the first edition was published, notably the general increase in book funds for public libraries and the diminished number of libraries which are borrowing books that should be available in their own stock. Four subject-specialization schemes and two more modest schemes designed to ensure regional self-sufficiency in current British books have made it easier to meet requests for new books, and the existence of the "British National Bibliography" and gradual improvement in the bibliographical training of library staffs have decreased the number of needlessly inaccurate requests. The basic problems remain, much as depicted by Mr. Vollans, and the pamphlet notes certain respects in which the establishment of regional reference libraries is likely to