to the chair of biochemistry in the Faculty of Technology from January 1, 1959, in succession to Prof. T. K. Walker. Dr. Eddy, who will be thirty-two on taking up his appointment, was educated at Devonport High School and entered the University of Oxford with an open scholarship in natural science in 1945. He graduated in chemistry with first-class honours and later undertook research under Sir Cyril Hinshelwood into the metabolism of alkali metal ions by bacteria, which formed the subject of his thesis for the D.Phil. degree. Having been awarded an Imperial Chemical Industries Research Fellowship, he afterwards participated in the well-known work of Sir Cyril's school on the adaptive behaviour of micro-organisms. In 1954 Dr. Eddy joined the staff of the Brewing Industry Research Foundation, later assuming responsibility for the department of microbiology in which, under the successive directorship of Sir Ian Heilbron and Dr. A. H. Cook, he was able to develop his interest in the chemical aspects of yeast structure. In this connexion his work on the wall of the yeast cell may be specially mentioned as throwing new light on various important aspects of the behaviour of yeast during industrial fermentations, while his development of methods for isolating nuclear bodies from yeast represents an outstanding achievement in a more academic field. Dr. Eddy is the author or joint author of a large number of original memoirs and, in keeping with his future responsibilities, he has been closely associated with various projects for developing the application of continuous methods of fermentation, a subject of growing importance in the industrial field.

Frederick Soddy Memorial Plaque

On October 25, Eastbourne was visited by members of the Soddy Memorial Trust, whose chairman, Sir Gerald Campbell, invited the mayor, Councillor J. W. G. Howlett, to unveil a memorial plaque on the house in Bolton Road where Frederick Soddy was born and passed his early austere and motherless days. At a previous commemoration luncheon, Councillor Howlett expressed the pride of the town in its famous son, who had predicted the wide-scale use of energy from the atomic nucleus. Following a well-attended film show arranged by the Institute of Atomic Information, the Trustees visited Eastbourne College, where Dr. F. M. Brewer was invited to unveil a memorial plaque in the new Soddy Senior Chemistry Laboratory, a notable extension of the laboratories where Soddy began his chemical studies ; it has recently been provided by the Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools.

The Second Soddy Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. F. M. Brewer, of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford, where he became a pupil of Soddy in the early 1920's. He recalled many personal facets of the formulator of the theory of disintegration and of the displacement law, which culminated in the establishment of isotopy and radiochemistry. Soddy always exhibited a great natural charm and generosity of thought, he said, especially towards his students and those with whom he collaborated, which persisted throughout his life and was augmented by the outstanding sociability of his wife. Soddy made little immediate impression on the authorities at Oxford, however, and his extensive work during the First World War at Aberdeen was cut short. Thereafter he became a passionate advocate of the widest use of science for furthering social progress. The local and national neglect of applied science prompted him to investigate political and monetary systems, which provoked academic criticism. Soddy was widely cultured, a mountaineer, an explorer of knowledge in other fields, and a man of the highest integrity, particularly when attributing priority to scientific discoveries and their interpretation. He remains a great man and a fundamental pioneer towards the utilization of nuclear energy. His impact on science is fully documented in "The Life Story of Frederick Soddy", by Muriel Howorth, the first copy of which was presented to the Eastbourne College Library by the author.

Windscale Pile No. 2

The Atomic Energy Authority has decided not to restart Windscale Pile No. 2. The cost of the measures which Sir Alexander Fleck's Technical Evaluation Committee recommended should be taken before restarting Pile No. 2 would be in the region of £500,000. If this cost were incurred and the pile restarted, the plutonium produced over the estimated remaining life of the pile would be extremely expensive. Plutonium is now being produced in substantial quantities from the Calder Hall reactors, and the Chapelcross reactors will come into operation during the next year. The fuel will now be discharged and reprocessed for other uses ; equipment will as far as possible be removed, and certain of the buildings will be useful for experimental purposes, saving expenditure which would otherwise have been necessary. This decision will not give rise to any redundancy. The programme of work of the chemical processing plant at Windscale is increasing, and the workers employed on the two piles will be re-allocated to other work.

Use of Radioactive Substances and X-rays in Schools

The Minister of Education, in Administrative Memorandum No. 577 (October 1958) to local education authorities and secondary schools, has announced that, although such work is normally more appropriate to university courses, a small number of schools are introducing demonstrations and experiments involving radioactive substances and sources of X-rays. In view of the possible risks to health of those engaged in such work, and after consultation with the Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee and the Atomic Energy Authority, it has been decided that special authorization will have to be obtained by any school wishing to conduct such work. The Minister will grant authorization, which will be reviewed annually, only where he is satisfied that the necessary safety precautions are maintained. The Minister also requires that he be notified by all schools employing X-ray and other apparatus operating at voltages greater than 5 kV., so that the appropriate protective barriers may be specified, without which such apparatus may not be used. Notes for the guidance of schools in the use of radioactive materials and of equipment producing X-rays have also been issued.

Wellcome Trust : Grants for Research

The Wellcome Trustees have announced that among the grants made during the half-year ended August 31 were the following : up to £60,000 to the Postgraduate Medical School of London for the cost of including a Wellcome Research Library in the proposed new buildings ; up to £37,000 to the Institute