

NEWS and VIEWS

Atomic Weapons Research Establishment :

Dr. Nyman Levin

DR. NYMAN LEVIN has been appointed by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to be a deputy director of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. Dr. Levin, who was born in 1906, graduated at the Royal College of Science, London. During 1930-40 he was with Marconi (Research and Development) and then he was seconded to the Admiralty to work with the Royal Naval Scientific Service. He transferred to the permanent staff in 1946. He was appointed superintendent of the Admiralty Gunnery Establishment in 1951. Since 1955 he has been chief of research and development to Rank Precision Industries. When he joined the Admiralty, Dr. Levin was engaged on the development of microwave valves; he started work in Bristol at what ultimately became the Services Electronics Research Laboratory. He carried out development work on microwave receivers and then was responsible for the establishment of cross-channel V.H.F. links, as part of the preparation for the invasion of Europe. This involved building a chain of stations along the south coast of Britain and confirming the reliability of V.H.F. communications over very long distances. Soon after the War ended he became head of the Instrumentation Group at the Admiralty Research Laboratory, where the underwater television technique was developed. With Rank Precision Industries he has been responsible for the development in Britain of xerography—a technique of dry electrostatic photocopying—and its applications, including the high-speed printing of computer outputs.

Theoretical Physics at Nottingham :

Prof. K. S. H. Stevens

DR. K. S. H. STEVENS, who has been appointed to the chair of theoretical physics in the University of Nottingham, was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, from which he won an open mathematical scholarship at Jesus College. After two years residence he joined the Admiralty Research Group at the Clarendon Laboratory in 1942 and returned to Jesus College in 1945. He was awarded first-class honours in the Mathematics Finals of 1947 and was Harmsworth senior scholar of Merton College during 1947-49. He obtained the D.Phil. degree for theoretical physics in the latter year. During 1949-53 he was research fellow of the Pressed Steel Company at Oxford, and during 1953-54 was in residence at Harvard University. Dr. Stevens was appointed reader in theoretical physics in the University of Nottingham in 1953. His main interests at Oxford were in the theory and magnetic properties of ionic salts, and more recently he has been concerned with the ferromagnetism of metals and alloys and other aspects of magnetism, including applications to micro-wave amplifiers.

Agriculture at Nottingham :

Dr. J. D. Ivins

THE appointment of Dr. J. D. Ivins to the chair of agriculture at the University of Nottingham, vacant since the resignation of Prof. H. G. Robinson in 1954, will be welcomed by his friends throughout the United Kingdom. Dr. Ivins graduated from the University of Reading with honours in agricultural botany in 1944, and was appointed almost immedi-

ately to the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge. His connexion with the University of Nottingham was made in 1945, when he went as crop recorder to the School of Agriculture at Sutton Bonington. He became lecturer in crop husbandry in 1948, and was invited to become acting head of the Department of Agriculture in 1955. Dr. Ivins has been an active member of the Agricultural Education Association and of the British Grassland Society, and since 1956 has been recorder of Section K of the British Association. An able and inspiring lecturer, he has already made noteworthy contributions to the welfare of the School, in the reorganization of the University farms, and by the extensive and effective liaison he has built up with numerous sections of agriculture and its related industries. At the same time he has developed and encouraged an effective school in the Department of Agriculture, where he has initiated two lines of research. The first, which arises logically from the theme of the Nottingham School, is the effect of cultural practices on the growth of the potato crop. The second, which is more peculiarly his own, is an attempt to bridge the gap between crop and animal husbandry by a study of the utilization of grass by the grazing animal. His use of small balanced herds of identical twins has given a precision to measurement that has not hitherto been possible, and the more critical evaluation of pasture productivity that results affords interesting potentialities for the future.

Chair of Heat Transfer in London :

Prof. D. B. Spalding

DR. D. B. SPALDING, whose appointment to the new University chair of heat transfer tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has just been announced, is well known for his work in the general field of thermodynamics and heat transfer. His research interests in the past few years have been concerned in particular with problems of temperature distribution and heat transfer in combustion processes, and with the thermodynamics and mass transfer in boundary layers, particularly in high-speed flow. He has developed and exploited a number of analogue methods for the solution of the equations that arise in these connexions, some of them electronic and others mechanical analogues in the true sense. His new appointment marks a further stage in the planned expansion of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, as the completion of the first stage of the new Engineering block makes available some more room for experimental work in heat transfer.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 : Awards for 1958

THE Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 has awarded the following senior studentships for 1958 for research at the universities indicated: Miss I. C. Gardner (Glasgow), for research in plant biochemistry; P. B. Jones (Oxford), for research in nuclear physics; M. P. Kerney (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London), for research in palaeontology; G. W. Kirby (Cambridge), for research in organic chemistry; P. A. G. Scheuer (Cambridge), for research in radio astronomy. The Commission has also awarded the following overseas scholarships for 1958: I. G. Macquarrie (Dalhousie University),