

split flaps published in May 1936 is known by his name.

In 1939 Irving was transferred to the Royal Aircraft Establishment and later became assistant director of scientific research (air) at the Ministry of Supply until his retirement in 1954. While at the Ministry he was responsible for initiating in 1950 researches on the reduction of the noise from jet engines. He wrote several papers on noise, was a consultant on this subject to the Ministry during 1954-57 and afterwards to the firms of Bristol-Siddeley and Westland Aircraft. He had also been chairman of the Noise Research Committee of the Aeronautical Research Council and a member of several of its other committees.

He was made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1932, and was a founder member and chairman of the Man-powered Aircraft Committee of the Society, the committee which has fostered the growing interest in Britain in man-powered flight. Due to his personal efforts and his published articles, the prospects of man-powered flight in the near future has been enhanced.

Henry Irving was a man of great personal charm, kindness and sincerity, and he was an inspiration to all those who came in contact with him. He leaves a widow and two daughters. J. L. NAYLER

#### Mr. W. A. Kay

WILLIAM ALEXANDER KAY, who died in January, was a prince of laboratory stewards whose fame spread far beyond the Physics Laboratory at Man-

chester in which he spent the whole of his working life. He started there as a laboratory assistant in 1894, and became steward in 1908, serving successively under Sir Arthur Schuster, Lord Rutherford, myself and Prof. P. M. S. Blackett. He was Rutherford's chief helper in the great days of his Manchester researches. In recognition of his services to the University he was made an honorary M.Sc. in 1946, and the University staff service centre is named after him.

He was an excellent steward and brilliant at devising experiments and demonstrating them in class. When Rutherford left Manchester in 1919 he invited Kay to go to Cambridge with him, but Kay could not bring himself to leave his native heath. How fortunate this was for the very inexperienced young professor who succeeded Rutherford can only be realized fully by myself. A great change has come over laboratories since those days, with their large establishments of secretaries, accountants, research and lecture room assistants and mechanics. Kay combined all these roles, and those of guide, philosopher and friend as well.

But it is not for his skill and his unflagging zeal that he will be chiefly remembered. His integrity, discretion, wisdom, warmth, and combination of modesty with a sturdy independence made a deep impression on all who knew him. The comparison may seem fanciful, but it is one which I have often made in my own mind. His personal qualities endeared him to us in much the same way that Michael Faraday's personality endeared him to his contemporaries. W. L. BRAGG

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner

PRESIDENT KENNEDY has appointed Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner to succeed Dr. George B. Kistiakowsky as special adviser for science and technology to the President. Dr. Wiesner has been on the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1946, being appointed to the grade of professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1950. During the same period he carried simultaneous responsibilities at the Institute for the research laboratory of electronics, of which he became director in 1952. Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1915, he went to the nearby University of Michigan, earning the degrees of B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in engineering. During his twenties, he sampled a variety of occupations, ranging from a broadcasting station to the Library of Congress (as chief engineer). Thereafter he spent three war years at the Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, followed by a year at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory during 1945-46. In addition to his academic and research posts, he has acted as consultant to industrial firms. Dr. Wiesner's research and scientific interests have been principally in the fields of acoustics, electronics, radar and theory of communications. Among his achievements was the development of the 'scatter' communication system, making possible the extensive distant early warning line spanning the northern perimeter of the American continent. In recent years, his interests in the international political problems of science have widened, stimu-

lated in part by membership of President Eisenhower's scientific advisory committee, by his appointment in 1958 as staff director of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva Conference on means of reducing the dangers of surprise attack, and by his attendance at several Pugwash Conferences.

### Machine Tool Industry Research Association :

Mr. A. E. de Barr

MR. A. E. DE BARR, who has been appointed the first director of the Machine Tool Industry Research Association, has had a distinguished career in industrial research. Born in 1918, he graduated with first-class honours in physics from the University of Leeds in 1939 and, after a short period of postgraduate research, proceeded to the Mine Design Department of the Admiralty. He remained with the Admiralty until the end of the War and then joined the firm of Joseph Sankey and Sons, Ltd., as research superintendent (physics). He transferred to the Guest, Keen and Nettlefold group of companies when the Research Laboratories of Sankey's became the Central Research Laboratories of the group. In 1950 he accepted the position of leader of the Physics Division of the Research Laboratories of Elliott Bros. (London), Ltd., where he was responsible for the establishment and development of physics, chemistry and metallurgy laboratories. Mr. De Barr joined the staff of the Shirley Institute, Manchester, in November 1953 as head of the Spinning Department, where his main contribution has been in the application of physical