

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Henry Bryant Bigelow Gold Medal for Oceanography : Dr. J. C. Swallow

THE Henry Bryant Bigelow Gold Medal was established last year in honour of Prof. Bigelow, one of the founders of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (U.S.A.). This year, the Medal, which is accompanied by a cash prize of 2,500 dollars, has been awarded to Dr. J. C. Swallow, of the (U.K.) National Institute of Oceanography.

The Swallow Float has become the principal tool for the study of deep-water circulations. The results of these investigations have revolutionized our conceptions of the character of the deep-water motions. Instead of the sluggish, widespread drift anticipated from continuity considerations, the deep layers seem to be moving briskly and not in accordance with any known process. Here, then, is a scientific fact that challenges the imagination. No one is more aware of this than Dr. Swallow. Since 1955, when the first trials of the float were made, there has not been a year in which he has not been at sea in pursuit of further understanding of the character of the deep-layer motions. In 1955 and 1956 he worked in the eastern basin of the North Atlantic aboard *Discovery II*. In the following year he brought *Discovery II* to join *Atlantis* in a co-operative study of a deep counter-current off South Carolina. In 1957 he worked again in the eastern basin from the Norwegian research ship *Helland-Hansen*. Next, in 1958, he worked off Gibraltar. By 1960 he had concluded a year-long investigation of the deep motions to the south of the Gulf Stream. In 1961 he took part in the International Expedition to investigate the Faeroe-Shetland overflow from the Norwegian Sea. During the past winter he joined the *Erika Dan* to measure the deep currents off Greenland and Labrador.

John Crossley Swallow was born at Newmill, Yorkshire, England, on October 11, 1923. He began his education at Holme Valley School. In 1940 he was awarded a scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge. He read mathematics and physics for two years, after which he joined the Admiralty Signal Establishment, working mainly at the East Indies Station until 1947. He then returned to Cambridge, graduated with first-class honours in physics, and then joined the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics to work on techniques for seismic prospecting at sea. He applied these techniques extensively during a round-the-world voyage of H.M.S. *Challenger* during the period 1950-52 and continued this work in the North Atlantic during 1953. He was awarded the Cambridge Ph.D. degree in 1954 for a thesis on "Seismic Investigations at Sea". He joined the National Institute of Oceanography in 1954 where, one year later, he used his first neutrally buoyant float for tracking deep-water movements.

## Scottish Reactor Centre : Dr. H. W. Wilson

DR. HENRY W. WILSON has been appointed director of the Scottish Research Reactor Centre. Dr. Wilson, who is at present a senior principal scientist and a group leader in the Nuclear Physics Division of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, where he has served in the

Atomic Energy Authority since 1955, is a graduate of the University of Glasgow and a former member of the staff of the Department of Natural Philosophy, in which he served as assistant, Research Fellow and lecturer prior to 1955. His experience includes a period of several years with Imperial Chemical Industries, and during 1951-52 he was a post-doctoral Fellow in the Radiation Laboratory in the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Wilson is a leading authority in the field of radiations from radioactive substances, and the research work of his mass spectrometry group has gained international recognition. The Reactor Centre, which is financed by a grant from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (see *Nature*, 194, 338; 1962), is being set up in the grounds of the National Engineering Laboratory at East Kilbride. The Centre is the responsibility of a consortium of the four Scottish universities, the Royal College of Science and Technology, and the Queen's University of Belfast, and will be conducted under the general supervision of a committee of the principals of the participating institutions.

## Geology at Hull:

Dr. D. T. Donovan

DR. D. T. DONOVAN, at present reader in palaeontology in the University of Bristol, has been appointed as from next October to the newly founded chair of geology in the University of Hull. Shortly after graduating in 1942, Dr. Donovan was with the British forces in Palestine until he returned to the University of Bristol in 1946 to continue his interrupted researches. He joined the staff of the Department of Geology as an assistant lecturer a year later, was promoted to lecturer in 1950, and in 1962 was appointed reader in palaeontology. He was awarded the degrees of Ph.D. in 1951 and D.Sc in 1960.

Nurtured on the classical sections and exposures of the Jurassic rocks of the West Country, where he gained much from his association with Arkell and, to a lesser extent, with Spath, Dr. Donovan will doubtless direct his attention to the equally famous Mesozoic rocks of Yorkshire and adjacent counties to the south. Here, much has been accomplished and many of the problems of Jurassic stratigraphy and palaeontology solved, but there still remains a rich field for research on the sedimentary environments and processes which controlled deposition. His extensive knowledge of Jurassic rocks and fossils abroad, from East Greenland to Italy, will also help to fit British Jurassic geology into a wider palaeogeographical setting. Latterly, Dr. Donovan has turned his attention to marine geology and has developed the application of oblique asdic to geological mapping, as witness his recent contribution with Mr. A. H. Stride to the geology of the sea-bed off Dorset. Experience gained in the Bristol and English Channels will prove a useful introduction to the determination of the off-shore geology of Yorkshire, in particular the extension of the Jurassic rocks, and it is hoped that the obvious maritime interests of Hull and the Humber will give him the help he will need of ship's time.