problems, as well as developing the fields of structures and stress analysis.

His academic work was again interrupted by war when in 1939 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Captain. In the early days of the Second World War he was stationed in Northern France, and after 1940 he worked on aerodrome construction and repair in Britain. In 1941 he was posted to Iceland, but returned to Britain again in 1942. During the Allied invasion of the Continent from 1944 until 1945 he served in France, Belgium, Germany and Holland. On returning to University College after the Second World War, he faced the very difficult task of rebuilding the bombed Chadwick Laboratory.

His interests in civil engineering were always very broad, and concerned basically with practical problems. Between the Wars he was interested in problems, among others, of the mixing of liquids and gases, cement manufacture, furnaces, penetration and impregnation of solids by liquids, steam generation, filtration, dehydration and separation of materials, and methods of tanning. In all these fields he was inventive and resourceful. In 1936 he was part-author of a book on the *Principles of Road Engineering*, which became a standard text.

He had a deep interest in the structural engineering profession, and for much of his working life he was a partner in the consulting firm of Collins and Mason. His work as a consultant brought him into contact with structural and foundation problems of all kinds, in timber, steel and reinforced concrete. He advised on the layout and design of industrial developments, including the planning of processes and complete factories. He also advised on problems of water supply and public health. In 1946 he was elected president of the Institution of Structural Engineers.

In 1929 he married Edith Mary Harvey; there is a son of the marriage. Mrs. Collins herself died recently, only two months after her husband.

A. H. Chilver

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society Research Professorships: Dr. M. J. Lighthill, F.R.S.

Dr. M. J. Lighthill, who has been director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment since 1959 (*Nature*, **184**, 151, 1959), has been appointed to a Royal Society research professorship. Dr. Lighthill is to take up his appointment on October 1 and will work in the University of London at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. He is well known for his work in non-linear problems of compressible flow, in supersonic boundary layer theory and in shock wave theory, and has made outstanding contributions in many fields of fluid dynamics as well as in more general spheres of pure and applied mathematics.

Electronics at Queen's University of Belfast: Prof. A. R. Boothroyd

Dr. A. R. Boothroyd has been appointed to the chair of electronics in the Department of Electrical Engineering of the Queen's University of Belfast. Dr. Boothroyd has been reader in electronics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology since 1959, but his association with the Department of Electrical Engineering goes back a long time. He graduated from Imperial College in 1946 and, after spending two years with the English Electric Company, Ltd., at Stafford, rejoined the College as research student to Prof. C. Cherry in 1948, working on applications of an electrolytic tank as an analogue computer in complex function theory, as related to synthesis of electric circuits. In 1951 he was appointed lecturer and rapidly made his name well known with his work on semiconductor devices and circuits. He has developed many industrial contacts in Britain and the United States, which he has visited several times; he was visiting professor at Berkeley during 1961, and he is the only British member of the Semiconductor Electronics Educational Committee—a Committee which is at present producing a series of volumes covering the whole field of semiconductor electronics: Dr. Boothroyd is an internationally acknowledged expert in this field.

Electrical Engineering at Woolwich Polytechnic: Mr. K. B. Reed

Mr. K. B. Reed has been appointed as the head of the Electrical Engineering (with Telecommunications) Department of Woolwich Polytechnic as from April 1. Mr. Reed obtained a B.Sc.(Eng)(Lond) degree with first-class honours at Northampton College of Advanced Technology, and is an associate member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He has had industrial training and experience at Associated Electrical Industries (Woolwich), Ltd. Mr. Reed has been a principal lecturer in telecommunications at the Polytechnic for thirteen years, and has recently become a recognized teacher of the University of London. He is also a senior examiner in telecommunications for the City and Guilds of London Institute. His interests and publications have been in the field of random electrical fluctuations in electronic devices, and he has had much contact in this work with workers in University Departments in Britain and with establishments as far afield as Italy and the United States.

Executive Secretary for the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee

Mr. A. J. Vasey, lately technical secretary of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Animal Health, Australia, has been seconded to the new post of executive secretary to the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee for a period of three years. The Scientific Committee, which consists of the heads of the national research organizations or their equivalents, exists to ensure the fullest possible collaboration between the Government scientific organizations of the Commonwealth. It was set up in 1946 by resolution of the British Commonwealth Scientific Official Conference as a standing committee and meets biennially. Its interim functions are carried out by a working party of deputies in London; secretariat services are provided by the British Commonwealth Scientific Offices (London), which also operates the *Commonwealth Index of Translations* commenced in 1948. The Commonwealth Committee on Fuel Research, the Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Resources and Geology (which operates the Commonwealth Geological Liaison Office), the Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Processing and the Commonwealth Collections of Micro-organisms also operate under the ægis of the Committee. As full-time executive secretary, Mr. Vasey will not only administer the Committee's affairs, but will also act as liaison officer between the national bodies and, in particular, be available to help developing Commonwealth countries to obtain advice in building up their scientific organizations.

Mr. A. J. Vasey

Mr. Vasey graduated from the University of Melbourne as B.Agr.Sc. in 1926. His research career was in the agronomy of cereals and pasture plants as an officer