

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Irish Academy:

At the Stated Meeting of the Royal Irish Academy on March 16 the following officers were elected: *President*, Prof. J. Doyle, emeritus professor of botany, University College, Dublin; *Treasurer*, Dr. V. C. Barry; *Secretary of the Academy and Secretary for Irish Studies*, Dr. B. Ó Cuív; *Secretary of the Science Committee*, Prof. P. J. Nolan; *Secretary for Polite Literature and Antiquities*, Dr. J. Raftery.

Officers

New Members

THE following were elected new members of the Academy: Mr. A. J. Bliss, Prof. H. B. Henbest, Dr. W. J. E. Jessop, Dr. R. P. Kernan, Mr. P. Ó Suilleabháin, Prof. L. J. D. Richardson and Prof. F. L. Scott.

Honorary Members

Mr. K. Bittel and Mr. K. H. Jackson were elected Honorary Members in the Section of Polite Literature and Antiquities.

Council

THE following were elected to the Science Section of the Council: Dr. V. C. Barry, Prof. J. C. Brindley, Prof. W. Cocker, Prof. J. N. R. Grainger, Dr. R. E. Ingram, Prof. P. J. Nolan, Prof. D. C. Pepper, Prof. E. Philbin, Dr. N. A. Porter, Prof. E. T. S. Walton and Dr. A. E. J. Went.

The following were elected to the Polite Literature and Antiquities Section of the Council: Dr. L. Bieler, Dr. T. de Bhaldraithe, Mr. D. W. Greene, Dr. G. A. Hayes-McCoy, Mr. P. Lynch, Dr. B. Ó Cuív, Dr. E. F. O'Doherty, Dr. J. J. O'Meara, Dr. J. Raftery and Mr. M. bean Uí Dhalaigh.

Director of the Road Research Laboratory :

Sir William Glanville, C.B., C.B.E., F.R.S.

SIR WILLIAM GLANVILLE retired from the directorship of the Road Research Laboratory, Harmondsworth, on March 31. William Henry Glanville was born in 1900, served in the army during the period 1918-19 and then became a student at Queen Mary College, University of London. He graduated with first-class honours in civil engineering in 1922 and joined the staff of the Building Research Station, where he produced classical papers on the strength and workability of concrete, on the stresses in reinforced concrete arising from the bond between steel and concrete, on shrinkage stresses and creep in concrete, and on the stresses induced in concrete piles during driving. He was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1926 and a D.Sc. degree in 1930. He was appointed chief engineer of the Building Research Station in 1928 and assistant director of Road Research in 1936. Three years before, the Road Research Laboratory had been taken over by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research from the Ministry of Transport as a result of a recommendation by a House of Commons Select Committee on Estimates. In January 1939 Glanville became Director of Road Research. Under his leadership the Road Research Laboratory became, during the Second World War, a main research establishment for the experimental assessment of the performance of explosive weapons, particularly bombs, for attacking targets both on and above the ground as well as under water. When consideration was being given to post-war development he urged that the Road Research Laboratory was a very suitable body to undertake the task of carrying out the research on road safety which the Allness Committee had recommended in 1939 should become the responsibility of a Laboratory not responsible to the Ministry of Transport. This was agreed and in 1946 the field of research of the Laboratory was expanded to include traffic and safety. Under Glanville's directorship the Laboratory's activities were

further expanded in 1955 to include research on Colonial road problems and in 1962 on bridges. During the 29 years that Glanville had been with the Laboratory the scientific staff had grown from 25 to about 450. Glanville was created a C.B.E. in 1944 and C.B. in 1953. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1958 and knighted in 1960. He was president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1950-51 and was awarded the Ewing Gold Medal of this Institution and also the Gold Medal of the Institution of Structural Engineers. On April 1 the Laboratory reverted to the Ministry of Transport.

Mr. D. J. Lyons

MR. D. J. LYONS has been appointed to the post of director of the Road Research Laboratory, in succession to Sir William Glanville, with effect from April 1. Mr. Lyons was born in 1916 and attended Queen Mary College, University of London, where he gained honours in aeronautical engineering in 1937. He joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment in the same year and worked in the Aerodynamics Department on model testing in small wind-tunnels; in 1939 he went to the Flight Section of the Aerodynamics Department. From 1939 until 1941 he served with the Royal Air Force as a flying instructor, but rejoined the Flight Section of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1941 and served there until 1951. During this period he worked on stability and control (including determination of the effects of aeroelastic deformation on controls and airframe), research and development on servo-tab control systems (leading to *Britannia* controls), and research and development on powered flying controls. In 1951 Mr. Lyons was appointed superintendent of Experimental Projects Division, Guided Weapons Department, and was responsible for continued development of the Royal Aircraft Establishment experimental test vehicles (*RTV* and *CTV* series) and started development of the General Purpose Vehicle. In 1954 he was concerned with initial ballistic work at Farnborough and headed the Ballistic Missile Division, which was responsible for the *Black Knight* test vehicle and *Blue Streak* development. Mr. Lyons was promoted to deputy chief scientific officer in 1956 and was appointed head of the newly formed Ballistic Missile Group, where his responsibilities for *Black Knight* and *Blue Streak* continued; in 1960 he assumed responsibility for planning the vehicle aspects of the space vehicle role for *Blue Streak* and its incorporation in the European Launcher Development Organization vehicle. Mr. Lyons was promoted to chief scientific officer in 1962 and appointed head of the newly formed Weapons Department at the Royal Aircraft Establishment.

Mathematical Physics in the University of Birmingham :

Prof. D. J. Thouless

DR. D. J. THOULESS, at present Senior Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and a lecturer in the Department of Physics at that University, has been appointed to the second chair of mathematical physics in the University of Birmingham from a date to be arranged. Dr. Thouless graduated from the University of Cambridge in 1955 and then studied under Prof. Bethe at Cornell University, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1958. His principal interest has been in 'many-body theory', that is, the theoretical investigation of the structure and properties of systems containing many similar particles. Dr. Thouless has made important contributions to the general theory and has developed numerous applications to the physics of nuclei and to the behaviour of matter at low temperatures, especially to superconductivity.