

University News :

MR D. P. HOWSON, formerly senior lecturer in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the additional chair of electrical engineering, and Dr G. Brown, a reader in physics in the university, has been appointed to a personal chair in nuclear physics. Professor D. C. Johnson, a visiting professor in the university, has been appointed to the chair of industrial technology.

Bradford

Reading

THE personal title of professor has been conferred on the following: Dr R. N. Curnow, at present reader in applied statistics and head of the Department of Applied Statistics; Dr G. W. Maynard, at present reader in economics; Mr E. J. Rolfe, principal of the National College of Food Technology; Dr B. G. F. Weitz, director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying.

Salford

DR G. O. PHILLIPS, formerly senior lecturer in chemistry at the University College of South Wales, has been appointed professor of chemistry.

Appointments

MR A. E. BAILEY, formerly head of the Strategic Systems Division at the Signals Research and Development Establishment, has been appointed superintendent of a new Division of Electrical Science at the National Physical Laboratory.

MR F. H. FELBERG has been appointed assistant laboratory director for plans and programmes in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology; Mr J. N. James has been appointed to Mr Felberg's former position of assistant laboratory director for Technical Divisions.

Announcements

MR F. L. WARING, deputy chairman and managing director of Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd, has been elected president of Chemical Industries Association, in succession to Sir Peter Allen, deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

At the annual statutory meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh on October 23, 1967, the following were elected officers and council for the session 1967-68: *President*, Professor N. Feather of the University of Edinburgh; *Vice-presidents*, Professor C. H. Waddington of the Institute of Animal Genetics, Edinburgh; Dr H. E. Butler of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh; Professor I. N. Sneddon of the University of Edinburgh; Dr J. R. Peddie of Edinburgh; Professor T. C. Phemister of the University of Aberdeen; Professor J. D. Robertson of the University of Glasgow; *General Secretary*, Professor A. E. Ritchie of the University of St. Andrews; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Sir William Weipers of the University of Glasgow Veterinary Hospital; Professor Neil Campbell of the University of Edinburgh; *Treasurer*, Lord Balerno of Currie; *Curator*, Dr R. Schlapp of the University of Edinburgh; *Ordinary Members of Council*, Professor P. W. Brian of the University of Glasgow; Sir David Lowe; Dr D. G. Sopwith; Professor E. M. Patterson of the University of Aberdeen; Professor P. D. Ritchie of the University of Strathclyde; Professor R. S. Silver of the University of Glasgow; Professor H. W. Wilson of the Scottish Universities' Reactor Centre; Professor W. N. Everitt of the University of Dundee; Professor N. Kemmer of the University of Edinburgh; Dr D. Traill of Edinburgh; Professor G. R. Tristram of the University of St. Andrews; and Dr C. D. Waterson of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

Meetings

PERMEABILITY Problems, July 2-9, 1968, Jerusalem (The Secretariat, Symposium on Permeability Problems, Polymer Department, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel).

CORRIGENDUM. In the article "Theoretical Astronomy at Cambridge", by F. L. Westwater (*Nature*, 216, 432; 1967) the SRC grant was incorrectly given as £25,000. This should have been £250,000.

CORRIGENDUM. In the article "Bacterial Inhibitors in Milk and other Biological Fluids" by B. Reiter and J. D. Oram (*Nature*, 216, 328; 1967) the last sentence should read "... and less than 1 µg of purified lipopolysaccharide (*E. coli* 005: B5, Difco) produces leucocytosis in 4-5 h".

ERRATUM. In the obituary of Sir John Cockcroft (*Nature*, 216, 621; 1967), m.amp should read µamp. The site for the heavy water reactor on the Ottawa River was selected in 1945, not 1946.

ERRATUM. In the article "Formation of Zinc Ferrite at Low Temperatures" by J. Beretka and M. J. Ridge (*Nature*, 216, 473; 1967), in the second line of the fourth paragraph organic oxides should read R₂O₃, and in the ninth line of the fourth paragraph the word chlorine should read chloride.

CORRESPONDENCE

Assessing the AGR

SIR,—To put your recent article on "Assessing the AGR" (*Nature*, 216, 213; 1967) in its proper perspective, we ought to emphasize a few points and add some comments to what was written.

Although the AGR came out unfavourably compared with the other systems in our assessment, the differences in terms of generating costs are marginal. Taking into account the uncertainties in the basic cost data used, we would agree with AEA that our results are by no means conclusive and we would further agree that only through actual tendering will it be possible to establish the real costs.

The fact that we for a certain period concentrated on a more extensive comparison between light and heavy water boiling reactors should not be given more importance than we in Norway have attached to it—a mere continuation of our paper exercise.

The cost picture for the different reactor types is changing rapidly and, as AEA points out, there has, since our assessment was carried out, been a general increase in the cost of light water reactors while there has been a definite decrease in the cost for the advanced gas cooled reactor. It is also generally acknowledged that the AGR has more to gain from a further development than have the light water reactors.

Since the results referred to in your article were published, we have obtained additional cost figures for both the AGR and the American light water reactors (PWR and BWR) indicating that, according to our ground rules, the generating costs for these reactors now work out roughly equal.

With due regard to the above development, we decided earlier this year to include an AGR in our reference design study of a 500 MWe nuclear power plant under Norwegian conditions. We have recently initiated a collaboration with UKAEA Reactor Group, Risley, to carry this study through.

Yours faithfully,

HENRIK AGER-HANSEN
Assistant Director,
Project Manager.

Institutt for Atomenergi,
Kjeller.