

**Mr. J. A. Ratcliffe, C.B.E., F.R.S.**

MR. J. A. RATCLIFFE has been appointed to succeed Dr. Smith-Rose. At present Mr. Ratcliffe is reader in physics in the University of Cambridge and head of the Radio Section at the Cavendish Laboratory. He entered Cambridge in 1921 with an open scholarship to Sidney Sussex College and first joined the Cavendish research group in 1924, working with Appleton in some of his earliest investigations of the ionosphere. In 1927 he was appointed demonstrator at the Cavendish Laboratory and in the same year elected a Fellow of Sidney Sussex. During the War, Ratcliffe was employed on various aspects of research and development in radio, mainly at the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern. For a year he was seconded to the Army to start the radar school at Petersham and later returned to the establishment to undertake responsibility for establishing and running the Post-Design Service organization which was concerned with performance problems of radar equipment under service conditions. In 1947 he was made O.B.E., for this war-time work, and in 1959 C.B.E., for advisory work to the Ministry of Supply. In 1951 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and at the present time he is president of the Physical Society, vice-chairman of the Electronics and Communications Section of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and overseas vice-president of the Institute of Radio Engineers (New York). Apart from the war years, Ratcliffe's work has been carried out at Cambridge where he has built up a major radio research school. Over a period of thirty-five years he has made extensive researches on the propagation of radio waves and on the ionosphere.

**U.K. Atomic Energy Authority :****Mr. H. Cartwright, M.B.E.**

MR. H. CARTWRIGHT, at present serving as deputy director of industrial power in the Development and Engineering Group of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Risley, has been appointed director of industrial power. Mr. Cartwright was born in 1919 in Manchester. He was educated at William Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, and at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took a first-class honours degree in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos in 1940. During the period 1942-46 he was a signals officer on ground radar stations in the Royal Air Force, reaching the rank of flight lieutenant. After working for the Decca Navigator Co., Ltd., Brixton, and the English Electric Co., Ltd., Stafford, he joined the Atomic Energy Division of the Ministry of Supply at Risley in 1949 as a design engineer. In 1954, on the formation of the Atomic Energy Authority, Mr. Cartwright became an assistant chief engineer in the Authority's Industrial Group at Risley. He was promoted to chief engineer in 1955, assistant director in 1956 and deputy director of industrial power in 1958.

**International Atomic Energy Agency : Research Grant**

THE first research grant under the Exchange and Training Programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency has been awarded to Dr. R. P. Agarwala. Dr. Agarwala has graduated from the Agra College, India, and the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London; he has published a number of papers on metallurgy. Dr. Agar-

wala will undertake a year of research in the field of solid-state physics and chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. These research grants are awarded mainly to scientists with considerable research experience, who are already working in their own countries on a promising line of research which cannot be developed fully there because of lack of equipment or laboratory facilities.

**Silver Jubilee of Science and Culture**

THE Silver Jubilee issue of *Science and Culture* (25, 1), organ of the Indian Science News Association, is one of which its sponsors may justly be proud. Besides a brief and modest history of the Association itself, there is an account of the rise of scientific research in India with tributes to those pioneers who did so much in difficult times. Among the contributors to the Silver Jubilee edition are distinguished men of science from various parts of the world. Hans von Euler, of the University of Stockholm, examines experimental work on nuclear acids and nucleotides, and A. I. Oparin, of the Moscow Academy of Sciences, discusses the origin and development of life on Earth. J. D. Bernal considers priorities and phasing in the use of science, while Ivan Matels, of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science, describes research and production of antibiotics in Czechoslovakia. There are also a number of articles by eminent men of science from India. The journal is published monthly from 92 Achanya Prafullachandra Road, Calcutta 9, at an annual subscription rate of £1.

**Alcohol and Road Safety**

ALTHOUGH the problem of alcohol and road safety has been much in the public eye, there has hitherto been little precise evidence as to the effects of small quantities of alcohol on driving skill. For this reason, the careful study by Prof. George Drew and his colleagues recently published by the Medical Research Council ("Effect of Small Doses of Alcohol on a Skill Resembling Driving", by G. C. Drew, W. P. Colquhoun and Hazel A. Long. M.R.C. Memorandum No. 38. H.M.S.O. 7s. 6d. net) will attract widespread interest. This report describes the effects of small doses of alcohol (the highest being roughly equivalent to only five fluid ounces of whisky for a man of average weight) upon performance on the 'Miles motor driving trainer'—a complicated tracking task which has a good deal in common with actual driving. It was found that the mean error of forty subjects on the test increased significantly with increasing blood alcohol, the shape of the curve being strikingly similar to the blood and urine alcohol curves. On the other hand, the average speed of 'driving' showed no significant change. Marked differences between subjects were however observed, and the authors rightly place weight on temperamental factors as governing individual reactions to alcohol.

These results strongly suggest that amounts of alcohol far too small to give rise to recognizable signs of intoxication may none the less significantly impair driving ability. At the same time, the authors are properly cautious in generalizing from their findings to driving—and drinking—under conditions less austere than those of the laboratory. The effects of small doses of alcohol upon confidence, decision and judgment were assessed little, if at all, in the present series of experiments, and the range and extent of compensatory activities have still to be