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# NEWS and VIEWS

# Nobel Celebrations in Sweden:

Sir Lawrence Bragg, O.B.E., F.R.S.

THE visit of Sir Lawrence and Lady Bragg to Stockholm for the Nobel Festival on December 10, 1965, at the invitation of the Nobel Foundation, was a unique event in the history of the Foundation. Sir Lawrence received his prize 50 years ago, and his visit was celebrated by a number of dinner parties and receptions. On December 9, Sir Lawrence gave the first Nobel Guest Lecture, taking as his subject the development of crystallography from its beginning to the latest crystallography of proteins. The Nobel Guest Lecture is a new innovation of the Foundation and is to be given each year by a distinguished laureate. Sir Lawrence's presence at the celebrations was very favourably commented on by many speakers at the celebrations, including the acting president of the Nobel Foundation, Mr. G. Söderlund, and the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, Dr. K. R. Geirow. In addition, on December 14, Sir Lawrence and Lady Bragg visited Uppsala University, where Sir Lawrence lectured on "Recent Advances in Protein Analysis". [A recent biographical note on Sir Lawrence was published on p. 353 of the July 24, 1965, issue of *Nature*.]

#### Civil Engineering in the University of Aston in Birmingham: Prof. M. Holmes

Dr. M. Holmes has been appointed professor of civil engineering and head of the new Department of Civil Engineering in the University of Aston in Birmingham (designate). In 1950 Dr. Holmes graduated from the University of Leeds with a B.Sc. degree in civil engineering, and in 1958 he was awarded a Ph.D. degree by the University of Bristol. He served for two years with the Royal Air Force as a flying officer, and then, after a short period in industry, he joined the staff of the University of Bristol as a lecturer in civil engineering. In 1960 he was appointed reader in civil engineering at the Bradford Institute of Technology, and since 1962 he has been on the staff of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Leeds, where he is at present a senior lec-Dr. Holmes has conducted research in plastic design methods for tall steel buildings and also into the study of beam to column connexions in precast concrete. He has published a considerable number of papers on a wide variety of civil engineering subjects. Dr. Holmes's appointment takes effect from May 1.

#### Physical Chemistry in the Bradford Institute of Technology: Prof. M. W. Roberts

Dr. M. W. Roberts has been appointed to the new chair of physical chemistry in the Bradford Institute of Technology. Dr. Roberts was educated at the Amman Valley Grammar School, Ammanford, and then at the University College of Swansea, University of Wales. He graduated in 1952 and carried out postgraduate research with Prof. K. W. Sykes in the field of surface chemistry.

From 1955 until 1958 he was seconded from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority as a Post-doctoral Fellow to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he collaborated with Prof. F. C. Tompkins in investigations of the nitridation of calcium. After this, Dr. Roberts held an appointment as senior scientific officer at the National Chemical Laboratory and worked on the mechanism of metal oxidation. In 1959 he was appointed lecturer in physical chemistry at the Queen's University of Belfast, where he continued his studies of the mechanism of surface processes and also collaborated with Prof. C. Kemball in catalytic investigations. 1964 he was invited by the Czechoslovak Academy of Science to lecture at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Prague.

## Mathematics in the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield: Prof. A. Stratton

Mr. Andrew Stratton has been appointed professor and head of the Department of Mathematics at the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield. He will take up the appointment on March 1, 1966. Mr. Stratton is at present head of the Research and Assessment Group of the Weapons Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He has served continually at the Establishment since he graduated in 1939; initially he was concerned with radio proximity fuses and in 1954 was made superintendent of the Instruments Division (later the Inertial Navigation Division), where he was responsible for research and development work in the fields of flight instrumentation and simulation, airborne digital computers, advanced navigation and attack systems and the theory and technology of inertial navigation. As head of the Research and Assessment Group of the Weapons Department, he has been responsible for the theoretical assessment of weapon systems and for an intra- and extra-mural programme of research in weapon technology. Mr. Stratton is the author of many publications dealing particularly with the presentation of information in aircraft and inertial navigation, and his mathematical interests are concerned with the integrating function of mathematical analysis in engineering and His external activities include the applied science. offices of chairman of convocation at the University of Exeter and member of the Council of the Institute of Navigation.

### Thames Barrage Scheme

In a written answer in the House of Lords on December 20, Lord Lindgren stated that while a Thames Barrage Scheme would always have attractions, no decision on such a matter could be final. The Government's view was that the potential advantages of such a scheme, in respect of such matters as flood prevention and amenity, were heavily outweighed by its disadvantages, most notably in regard to the grave interference which a barrage would impose on the operation of the Port of London.