responsibilities with equal facility. Indeed, his loss will be felt not only in the Wills Laboratory itself, but also by his colleagues in the faculty, and by others who, concerned with the future policy of a vigorous young University, have learnt to value his counsel and judgment.

President Eisenhower's Proposals for the International Control of Atomic Energy

In his speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations at New York on December 8, President Eisenhower said that the United States are prepared immediately to meet privately with such other nations as may be "principally involved" to seek "an acceptable solution" to the atomic armaments race. They would seek more than the mere reduction or elimination of atomic materials available for military purposes. The possibility of power from atomic energy for economic purposes is already proved, and President Eisenhower proposed that the Governments principally involved, to the extent permitted to common prudence, should begin and continue to make joint contributions from their stock-piles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency to be set up under the ægis of the United Nations. This agency would be responsible for impounding, storing and protecting the contributed fissionable and other material and for devising methods of allocating the material for peaceful purposes; and the United States are prepared to undertake such explorations in good faith and to further the development of plans for expediting the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The President indicated that he is prepared to submit to the United States Congress, with every expectation of approval, plans which would encourage world-wide investigation into the most effective peace-time uses of fissionable material and which would begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stock-piles. Such plans should also demonstrate to peoples of all nations that the great Powers of the world, both of the East and of the West, are interested in human aspirations first and foremost, rather than in building up armaments of war; and they should open up a new channel for peaceful discussions and initiate at least a new approach to the many difficult problems that must be solved if the world is to shake off the inertia imposed by war and to progress towards peace. In his speech the President also revealed that since July 16, 1945, the United States have conducted forty-three atomic test explosions and said that atomic bombs to-day are more than twenty-five times as powerful as the weapons with which the atomic age dawned.

Trans-Atlantic Telephone Cable

An important step forward in the development of telephone communication between Great Britain and North America occurred on December 1, when an agreement was signed in London between the General Post Office, the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and the Eastern Telephone and Telegraph Co. of Canada, for the provision of the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable, as distinct from the existing telegraph cables. The installation, which is estimated to cost £12½ million, is likely to be ready in 1956 and will mark the completion of some twenty-five years of development in Britain and the United States. Two coaxial cables will be laid by H.M. Cable Ship *Monarch* from Oban in Scotland to Newfoundland, a distance of 2,250 miles, and these will be connected to a shorter section of coaxial cable from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia, about 360 miles in length. The former will be equipped with fifty one-way amplifying repeater units placed at 40-mile intervals, of an American type which has been adequately tested in deep water. A British type of two-way repeater will be incorporated in the single cable in Canadian waters, based on the experience of the British Post Office in the use of a similar cable during the past ten years between Anglesey and the Isle of Man, and for a shorter period between England and Holland and Denmark. When completed, the new cable should provide about twenty-nine telephone circuits between the United Kingdom and North America in place of, or in addition to, the twelve radio-telephone circuits, which are at times subject to deterioration or interruption due to fading and atmospheric disturbances. In addition, improved telegraph and telephone services to Australia and New Zealand will result from the direct wire connexion between London and Vancouver, from which point the radio service southwards is frequently superior to that across the Atlantic in the east–west direction.

Recording the Coronation: London–Montreal Joint Discussion by Radio

On December 3 the Institution of Electrical Engineers held a joint meeting with the Engineering Institute of Canada by means of a radio-telephone connexion between London and Montreal. After an exchange of greetings between the presidents of the two bodies, Mr. H. Bishop in London and Mr. R. L. Dobbin in Montreal, a paper entitled "Technical Arrangements for the Sound and Television Broadcasts of the Coronation Ceremonies on 2nd June, 1953", by W. S. Proctor, M. J. L. Pulling and F. Williams, was read in the Institution building in London. This paper described the many special and technical arrangements made for the largest outside broadcast ever undertaken by the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Post Office; the main details for broadcasting the Coronation by sound and television, and the special arrangements for getting pictures to North America, have already been summarized in *Nature* (**171**, 1050; 1953). A joint trans-Atlantic discussion followed the reading of the paper, in which Mr. J. E. Hayes, of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Dr. A. C. Don, Dean of Westminster, participated. After final remarks by the respective presidents on the success of the joint meeting, the technical discussions were continued independently in the two countries. In the lecture theatre in London, short extracts were shown of the B.B.C. telefilms of the actual crowning ceremony in Westminster Abbey. One of these was made by the suppressed frame system recently used by the B.B.C., while the other had been taken on the 'Mechau' camera installation, in which the vertical scanning process is effected by continuous motion of the film through the camera.

University of Nottingham

The Council of the University of Nottingham has accepted from Mr. C. T. Cripps, chairman and managing director of Pianoforte Supplies, Ltd., Simplex Works, Roade, Northampton, a gift of £100,000 for the endowment of two professorial