

human occupation; but his ideas have been absorbed in modified form in much current work. Known in later years as a great exponent of visual presentation of geographical facts, his wide circle of friends will wish him a long and profitable retirement, with leisure to follow his photographic interests.

Mr. Norman Pye

MR. NORMAN PYE, senior lecturer in the University of Manchester, is to succeed Prof. Bryan. Mr. Pye was educated at Wigan Grammar School and at the University of Manchester, where he graduated with first-class honours in geography in 1935 and obtained the diploma in education in 1936. After a period as a research student at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, he returned to Manchester in 1938, as an assistant lecturer in geography; he served in the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty during 1940-46. He was appointed to a lectureship at Manchester in 1946 and became senior lecturer in geography in 1953. During 1944-46 he held jointly with Dr. W. G. V. Balchin a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for climatological research in Bath and district. During 1952 he received a Fulbright travel grant for research, also with Dr. W. G. V. Balchin, in geomorphology and economic geography in the Mohave and Sonora Deserts, U.S.A. Since 1950 he has been honorary assistant editor of *Geography*. He is also a member of the Council of the Institute of British Geographers and of the Council of the Royal Meteorological Society. Mr. Pye's special research interests have been in the field of physical geography, more especially in climatology and cartography, on both of which topics he has published a number of papers and has now in the press a book on the principles of cartography and surveying. He is also much interested in, and has had considerable experience of, teaching and lecturing on both economic and regional geography. He is also a first-class man in the field and has conducted field courses both in Britain and in European countries.

Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme: Awards

AWARDS under the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme have been made to the following: Prof. R. H. Common, chairman of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, McGill University, to enable him to study avian biochemistry, principally at Reading, during July-September; Dr. D. E. Coombe, Fellow of Christ's College and University demonstrator in botany, Cambridge, to enable him to visit West Africa during 1955 to study tropical forest vegetation; Dr. J. Crossland, lecturer in physiology, University of St. Andrews, to enable him to visit Montreal during August-December 1954 in order to collaborate with Dr. K. A. C. Elliott in further studies in the behaviour of acetylcholine in the brain; Mr. J. R. Howes, lecturer in animal husbandry, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, to enable him to study problems and methods of research in African animal production, at Pretoria and in Kenya, during July-September; Dr. A. P. Subramanian, of the Geological Survey of India, to enable him to work with Prof. C. E. Tilley at Cambridge during 1955 on a petrographic study of rocks from the type charnockite area around Madras; Mrs. Patricia M. Thomas, of Adelaide, to enable her to carry out helminthological studies at Macdonald College,

Canada, during July-December. These are the first awards under the scheme which was instituted last year to provide facilities for increasing the efficiency of scientific workers of proved ability by enabling them to pursue research, learn techniques or follow other forms of study in natural science in countries other than their own in the British Commonwealth where the physical or personal environment, or both, are peculiarly favourable.

Royal Society Research Appointments

THE Council of the Royal Society has made the following research appointments: the Alan Johnston Lawrence and Moseley Research Fellowship to Dr. D. S. Robinson (Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford) for work on the biochemistry of lipid distribution and transport in plasma, and its relation to the problem of atherosclerosis; Stothert Research Fellowships to Dr. B. L. Ginsborg (University College, London) for work on neuromuscular transmission, and to Miss D. Salmony (Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London) for work on the effects of sex hormones on cell metabolism; and the John Murray Travelling Studentship in Oceanography and Limnology for 1954 to P. Hughes (University of Liverpool) for study of wind drifts in the oceans.

Atomic Energy Authority

THE Atomic Energy Act, 1954, which provides for the setting up of an Atomic Energy Authority for the United Kingdom, in accordance with the recommendations of Lord Waverley's Committee (see *Nature*, 173, 459; 1954), received Royal Assent on June 4. In the debates in Parliament, concern was freely expressed as to the position of the employees of the proposed Authority, particularly in regard to the security regulations suggested in the original first schedule. When the Bill was debated in the House of Commons, satisfactory words could not be found to define the grounds on which an employee of the Authority would be referred to the purge tribunal as a bad security risk. Such a definition was needed to write into the Bill safeguards for requiring the Lord President's consent to dismissal if the tribunal should recommend it and if the Lord President agreed with it. None of those who spoke in the debate liked the reference to a man's political associations, and in the Committee stage in the House of Lords on May 19 Lord Salisbury accepted on behalf of the Government an amendment by Lord Silkin which avoids the use of these words. In accordance with this amendment, Section 4 of the First Schedule of the Act reads: "Except with the consent of the Lord President of the Council, the Authority shall not terminate on security grounds the employment of any officer of, or person employed by, the Authority. In this sub-paragraph the expression 'security grounds' means grounds which are grounds for dismissal from the civil service of Her Majesty, in accordance with any arrangements for the time being in force relating to dismissals from that service for reasons of national security". This amendment, which puts employees of the Authority in exactly the same position as Civil servants, was afterwards welcomed by Mr. G. R. Strauss on behalf of the Opposition as perfectly satisfactory, when the Lords' amendments were considered in the House of Commons on May 31, and was accepted by the House with other amendments.