

World War, in the civil administration in Iraq, and in the iron and steel industry, before going to technical education. He joined the "City and Guilds" in 1929 at a time when the Institute was slowly recovering from the First World War. The subsequent remarkable expansion of its work until 1939 and the resumption of expansion from 1942 were largely due to his wise guidance. His major contribution was the building up of the Institute's system of advisory committees, where representatives of industry and education together plan and keep up to date the schemes of syllabuses and examinations upon which technical education, particularly at craft level, is based both in Britain and overseas. This advisory committee system transformed a rather rigid external examining body into an instrument sufficiently flexible to meet the developing needs of industry, yet sufficiently stable to maintain the high standards for which the "City and Guilds" has always stood.

Colonel French was especially successful in his personal relationships with the officers of the Board of Education and local education authorities, technical college staffs and those in industry (then fewer in number) who saw the need for better technical education. With his love of craftsmanship, his passionate concern for the well-being of young people, his transparent honesty and his pungent humour, he unobtrusively did much between the Wars in the technical education field to dispel misunderstanding and to promote that co-operation among technical examining bodies, teachers' organizations and professional and industrial bodies which nowadays is taken for granted. During the Second World War, though hampered by ill-health, he played a useful part in discussions preceding the drafting of the 1944 Education Act and, after the War, in the negotiations that ultimately led to the formation of the Associated Examining Board.

CYRIL LLOYD

NEWS and VIEWS

Atoms for Peace Awards

DR. JAMES R. KILLIAN, jun., president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is to be chairman of the Organization and Planning Committee of Atoms for Peace Awards. In addition to Dr. Killian, the Committee will include Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and president of the National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations; Dr. Arthur H. Compton, formerly chancellor of Washington University; Mrs. Douglas Horton, formerly president of Wellesley College; Dr. Mervin J. Kelly, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; and Dr. Alan Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation. The Atoms for Peace Awards, it will be recalled, were established last summer as a memorial to Henry Ford and Edsel B. Ford by a Ford Motor Company Fund appropriation of 1,000,000 dollars. It will provide 100,000 dollars annually for ten years to be spent in helping to provide incentives for the world's scientists, inventors and engineers—without regard for nationality or political belief—towards finding new ways in which atomic energy can be used for the welfare of mankind. It is now announced that the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has agreed that the headquarters of the new institution be located at the Institute. In inviting Dr. Killian and the Committee to undertake the planning and organization of the Awards, Mr. Henry Ford II expressed the hope that the Committee "would set up the organization of the Awards so that the organization would be an independent corporate entity, entirely separate and divorced from Ford Motor Company".

In informing Mr. Lewis Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, of the establishment of the new institution on July 25, Mr. Ford described it as a response to the hope expressed by President Eisenhower at the July meeting of the "Big-Four" in Geneva that "private business and professional men throughout the world will . . . provide an incentive in finding new ways that this science can be used . . . for the benefit of mankind and not for destruction". Mr. Ford said at that time, "We would

propose that when the organization of this new memorial fund is completed, the Board of Trustees of Atoms for Peace Awards appoint each year a competent International Jury of Awards for the purpose of selecting from among the world's scientists, inventors and engineers—without regard for nationality or political belief—the individual or group of individuals who, in the Jury's judgment, has made the greatest contribution during the year to peaceful uses of atomic energy; that the individual or group so selected be granted with appropriate ceremony the Atoms for Peace Award for that year; that the annual Award carry, in addition to a suitable medal to be designed and cast for the purpose, an honorarium of 75,000 dollars; that, if during any year the International Jury of Awards or the Board of Trustees finds no candidates pre-eminently meriting the Atoms for Peace Award, the sum at the disposal of the memorial fund be used that year for scholarships and fellowships most likely to contribute to the advancement of the new science of peaceful application of atomic energy".

Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

Prof. F. O. Schmitt

PROF. FRANCIS O. SCHMITT, at present head of the Department of Biology of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is relinquishing his post to take up the special appointment of Institute professor, and will be succeeded in the Department by Prof. Irwin W. Sizer, at present associate professor of biochemistry. The post of Institute professor is a special one designed to recognize outstanding achievement and to give its holder freedom to concentrate on research and advanced teaching; the only other person at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who holds this rank at present is Prof. John C. Slater, the distinguished solid-state physicist. Prof. Schmitt's special field of study is in the use of the electron microscope for biological research, a field in which he became interested through his early work in X-ray diffraction and polarization optics for the study of the molecular organization of biological cells. After graduating from Washington University, St. Louis, in 1924, he did research work