Civil Engineering at Southampton : Prof. P. B. Morice

In view of the recent and forthcoming growth in the size of the Engineering Faculty, the University of Southampton has decided to increase the number of chairs in the faculty. In accordance with this policy, the University has instituted a chair of civil engineering; the first professor will be Dr. P. B. Morice. After taking his degree at the University of Bristol, Dr. Morice was for a time with the Surrey County Council Highways and Bridges Department. Since 1948 he has been with the Research Division of the Cement and Concrete Association, and has been for a number of years head of the Structures Research Department. His main interests lie in the fields of pre-stressed concrete and in the theory of structural analysis. The University of Southampton can look forward to the vigorous growth of the Civil Engineering Department now that it has at its head a professor with an outstanding record of research.

Geology at Exeter : Prof. Alan Stuart

The establishment of a chair of geology in the University of Exeter is a further stage in the growth of that young institution. Mr. Alan Stuart had the task of laying the foundations of a Department of Geology twelve years ago, and a measure of the success of his efforts is now his promotion to a professorship. Prof. Stuart received his undergraduate training, after service in the First World War, in the University of Durham, specializing in mineralogy and petrology under the guidance of Dr. L. Hawkes. In 1921 he was appointed to the staff of the new University College of Swansea, where for twenty-five years he was not only responsible for much of the geological teaching and the building of the Department, but also undertook part of the College administration, notably as superintendent of examinations. He thus had experience in university affairs that stood him in good stead when he assumed his duties in Exeter in 1947. Prof. Stuart's interests have been wide: he has published work on the petrology of coal, on magnetite sands, on the mineralogy of the Old Red Sandstone and of recent dune sands, and on the ontogeny of gastropod shells. More recently he has devoted special attention to optical methods in mineralogical and crystallographic analysis, and is joint author with N. H. Hartshorne of the standard work "Crystals and the Polarizing Microscope". It is a fitting conclusion to a devoted university career that Exeter should have thought it proper to appoint him to the chair.

The Royal Society : Vice-presidents for 1958

Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, president of the Royal Society, has appointed the following vice-presidents for the year ending November 30, 1958: Sir William Penney, treasurer of the Royal Society, director of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston; Sir Lindor Brown, biological secretary of the Royal Society, Jodrell professor of physiology at University College, London; Sir Charles Dodds, Courtauld professor of biochemistry in the University of London; Sir Bryan Matthews, professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge.

European Organization for Nuclear Research : Appointments

M. François de Rose, a member of the French Atomic Energy Commission, has been elected president of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (C.E.R.N.) in succession to Sir Ben Lockspeiser, who guided the Organization during its formative period and is retiring on completion of the statutory three-year term of office. Mr. J. Willems, of Belgium, and Prof. W. Heisenberg, of Germany, have been elected vice-presidents. They succeed Mr. F. de Rose, of France, and Prof. Holtsmark, of Norway. Prof. E. Amaldi, of Italy, has assumed the chairmanship of the Scientific Policy Committee, succeeding Prof. W. Heisenberg of Germany. Mr. J. H. Bannier, of the Netherlands, has been appointed chairman of the Finance Committee, in succession to Mr. J. Willems, of Belgium. Sir Harry Melville, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been appointed to succeed Sir Ben Lockspeiser as one of the British delegates to the Council of the Organization, the other delegate being Sir John Cockcroft. During 1957 the entire staff of the Organization moved into its permanent headquarters at Meyrin, near Geneva. The total number of personnel is now 598, of which about two-thirds are scientific and technical.

American Hall of Fame

Bronze busts of George Westinghouse, inventor of the air brake, and Josiah Willard Gibbs, the thermodynamicist, are to be placed in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at the University of New York. At an unveiling ceremony, held on December 1 in the Gould Memorial Library Auditorium of the University of New York, the bronzes were accepted by Dr. C. V. Newsom, president of the University. The principal speakers were Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, former president of the United States, and Dr. D. W. Bronk, president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. The bust of Westinghouse, which was given by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was sculptured by Edmondo Quattrocchi. The bust of Gibbs, a gift of the American Chemical Society, Yale University, and several individual donors, is by Stanley Martineau.

Site for Expansion of the University of St. Andrews

A statement by the Secretary of State for Scotland, circulated with Hansard for December 17, regarding his decision on the building site for the University of St. Andrews, which was challenged both on procedure and on merits, points out that while the University's evidence at the inquiry was given after the evidence for the objectors, the lines of the University's case had been made clear in advance and its witnesses were intensively cross-examined. The Government's broad acceptance of the Franks report did not mean reopening proceedings already concluded. On merits, Mr. J. Maclay said that the inquiry lasted for ten days, during which all aspects of the matter were fully debated, with a further day devoted to the inspection of sites. It was conducted by a senior and very experienced member of the Scottish Bar as commissioner, wholly independent of the Scottish Office, with the assistance of eminent and independent planning assessors, and his decision was in line with the recommendations in the Commissioner's report. A crucial part is the adequacy of the site for the future scientific needs of the University. The University's view that the Westburn Lane site is adequate and suitable for foreseeable needs of basic scientific teaching and research, that peripheral sites are available if any specialized research necessitated

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