

follow through on the (scientific and development) programme". Thirty years ago, at the age of twenty-three, Dr. Killian took his degree of bachelor of science in business and engineering administration. The course for that degree covered many aspects of engineering and science and also comprised training in engineering and scientific management. Since then, his work in research and administration has won for him many honours and awards, including the President's Certificate of Merit in 1948, the Freedoms Foundation Award in 1952 and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of the Army in 1953.

Dr. Killian is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member and former vice-president of the American Society for Engineering Education. In 1951, he was appointed chairman of the Army Scientific Advisory Panel and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization. Dr. Killian went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from Trinity College (now Duke University) in 1923, and while he was editing its newspaper, *Technology Review*, was made executive assistant to the Institute's president, the late Dr. Karl T. Compton. Two years after this appointment, in 1939, he was helping Dr. Compton to organize the Institute's vast programme of training and research for war purposes; ten years later, Dr. Killian succeeded Dr. Compton as president of the Institute.

College of Aeronautics, Cranfield :

Prof. John Loxham

MR. JOHN LOXHAM has been appointed to the chair of aircraft economics and production in the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield. He will take up his appointment on April 1. Mr. Loxham, as managing director of the Sigma Instrument Co., Ltd., has been responsible for the development of a wide range of fine measuring equipment specially suited to the production methods of modern industry, and those of the aero-engine industry in particular. His work in this field has earned him an international reputation, and machines made to his designs are used in all the industrialized countries of the world. Before joining the Sigma Company in 1939, Mr. Loxham was head of the Engineering Production Department at the Northampton Polytechnic, London, where he established the first National Certificate course in production engineering, and set up the first technical college machine tool laboratory. He is chairman of the British Standards Institution Committee for Limits and Fits, and a member of several other committees. He has lectured in Great Britain and abroad on subjects associated with management, technical education and the control of quality in engineering production. In 1946, he was awarded the Sir Joseph Whitworth Prize by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for his paper on "An Experiment in the use of a Standard Limit System", and the City and Guilds of London Institute has recently conferred upon him the Insignia Award in Mechanical Engineering for 1957 in recognition of his work in the field of precision engineering.

Horticulture at Reading : Prof. O. V. S. Heath

DR. O. V. S. HEATH, who has been appointed to the chair of horticulture in the University of Reading, graduated in botany in 1925 at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and proceeded to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad,

for a course in tropical crop botany. During 1927-36 he held the post of plant physiologist at the Cotton Experiment Station, Barbeton, South Africa, and carried out developmental studies on cotton in relation to soil moisture, rotations, and cultivation methods. In 1936 he returned to the Imperial College as Leverhulme Research Fellow and began work on carbon dioxide assimilation in relation to stomatal aperture, and the mechanism of stomatal movement which from then on became his major field of work. In 1939, he was appointed to the staff of the Research Institute of Plant Physiology at the Imperial College and attained the rank of senior principal scientific officer. During 1940-45 he carried out research on morphogenesis in the onion plant, especially the effects of day-length and temperature on bulb formation and flowering. Techniques for producing onion sets and for preventing bolting by storage treatment were devised, and low-bolting strains selected. From 1945 onwards Dr. Heath resumed his stomatal investigations. The discovery of the effects of carbon dioxide concentration led to work on the minimum concentration of carbon dioxide in illuminated leaves. In the field of stomatal physiology Dr. Heath's work is unrivalled. His recent demonstration of the role of chelation in the action of growth substances has opened a new line of approach. He took an active part in the work of the department both as lecturer and supervisor of postgraduate students.

The Atomic Energy Authority

REPLYING for the Prime Minister to a question in the House of Commons on January 24, Mr. R. A. Butler said he had no reason to suppose that the Prime Minister would dissent from the action proposed by the Atomic Energy Authority in a letter received from its chairman. In that letter, of January 21, Sir Edwin Plowden said that the Authority endorsed and will follow the principles of organization laid down in the report of the Fleck Committee appointed to inquire into the organization of certain parts of the Authority, and it also accepts in general the scheme of organization recommended for the Industrial Group and expects, in large measure and over a period of time, to implement the Committee's recommendations. It will endeavour to approach as nearly as possible the organization visualized by the Committee, having regard to the individuals who hold or could be found to fill the senior posts. The Authority is already embarking on a programme of recruitment from outside and of transfer within its own organization. On January 27, Mr. Maudling, replying to a parallel question, said that the Government and the Authority are still considering the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Fleck Committee which investigated the health and safety arrangements of the Authority.

In reply to a further question about nuclear power station contracts, Mr. Maudling said that besides the four consortia formed in the earlier stages of preparation for the nuclear programme and trained by the Atomic Energy Authority in collaboration with the Central Electricity Authority, a fifth consortium has since been formed and trained at its own request. For technical reasons the design and construction of a nuclear power station can best be undertaken at present by such groups of companies. No exclusive rights are granted to the use of the Authority's information. The system will be kept under review, and more conventional methods may be possible later.