

New Mills School and the Herbert Strutt School, Belper, Derbyshire. After a period of articulated pupilage with Waude Thompson, borough engineer and surveyor, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, Dr. Coates entered University College, Nottingham, and read for a degree in civil engineering. He then worked with Messrs. Lehane, Mackenzie and Shand, Ltd., as an engineer on factory construction for the Ministry of Supply, before joining the Corps of Royal Engineers during the Second World War, in which he served in the Mediterranean theatre. On demobilization, he worked as an engineering assistant to Mansfield Corporation, until appointed lecturer in civil engineering at University College, Nottingham, late in 1946.

He has carried out research on the fatigue strength of compression-type coil springs, and was awarded the Ph.D. degree of the University of Nottingham in 1953. In the same year he was appointed senior lecturer responsible for civil engineering in the joint Departments of Civil and Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Coates's research has included the fatigue of metals and structural analysis. In recent months he has co-operated with Mr. C. E. E. Gibson, county architect of Nottinghamshire, in the design of buildings to resist mining subsidence, and with Mr. L. E. Richardson, chief civil engineer to the East Midlands Division of the Central Electricity Authority, on the design of the experimental power station using coal gasification at Newman Spinney.

National Physical Laboratory, Ship Division :

Dr. F. H. Todd

DR. FREDERICK HENRY TODD has been appointed superintendent of the Ship Division of the National Physical Laboratory, in succession to the late Dr. J. F. Allan (*Nature*, 180, 68; 1957). Dr. Todd, who graduated from King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, was at the National Physical Laboratory for twenty years before going to the United States in 1948 to become chief naval architect at the David Taylor Model Basin, Washington, D.C. Before the Second World War, Dr. Todd did much work on hull and propeller design and hull vibration for all classes of merchant ships and among his war-time activities were the testing and development of units of 'Mulberry' harbour. While in the United States he was responsible for the technical direction of the U.S. Bureau of Ships' hydrodynamics research programme in a variety of fields, including research into the hull-form of single-screw ships. Dr. Todd is returning to the National Physical Laboratory at a time of great activity in the Ship Division. The new Ship Hydrodynamics Laboratory, now under construction at Feltham at a cost of £2 million, together with present facilities, should make the National Physical Laboratory one of the best-equipped establishments in the world for ship research work. Dr. Todd spent his last year at the National Physical Laboratory before going to Washington working on a preliminary design of the main features and layout of this Laboratory.

British Trust for Ornithology : Mr. K. Williamson

THE British Trust for Ornithology has received a five-year grant from the Nuffield Foundation, enabling it to appoint a migration research officer to carry out the work of analysing past observations and to make recommendations for the future. Mr. Kenneth Williamson, who has accepted the appointment, was

during 1948-56 the director of the bird observatory on Fair Isle (between Orkney and Shetland) and last year spent a season on St. Kilda as warden for the Nature Conservancy. Previously he had extensive museum experience and served during the Second World War in the Faeroe Islands. During his time on Fair Isle, Mr. Williamson not only carried out extensive bird-ringing activities and day-to-day observations, but also made a particular study of the effect of the weather on migratory movements. He also studied the ectoparasites of birds as providing a possible clue to their place of origin and for several years he followed the fortunes of a breeding colony of the parasitized Arctic skua, a bird of great interest to biologists because of its two plumage phases. Mr. Williamson's first task will be to arrange for the copying by some photographic method of the massive observations accumulated by the bird observatories. In June he, with other officials of the British Trust for Ornithology, will attend the twelfth International Ornithological Congress in Helsinki and will read a paper on the work of the British bird observatories.

The International Atomic Energy Agency

A NUMBER of offers of fissionable materials, radioelements and special materials for reactors, and fellowships and training facilities, have been officially communicated by member States to the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna, for use in atomic energy programmes to be carried out under its auspices. The prices and conditions on which the materials are to be made available to the Agency have yet to be determined. Canada has informed the Agency that, for several years at least, it could provide the natural uranium necessary for its atomic energy programmes, while India states that it could supply all the thorium needed; Ceylon has offered 30 tons of refined monazite of about 9 per cent thorium content; Norway has offered to supply isotopes produced in the Norwegian reactor at Kjeller, which is operated in collaboration with the Netherlands, and special reactor materials such as niobium, aluminium and molybdenum; Portugal has made available to the Agency 100,000 kgm. of uranium oxide in concentrate form; South Africa is prepared to supply uranium oxide concentrates, beryllium, lead, tantalum, cadmium, lithium, vanadium, chromium and nickel; the U.S.S.R. has offered 50 kgm. of contained uranium-235 in any concentration up to 20 per cent, and is prepared to make available further supplies of fissionable and other materials; the United Kingdom has offered 20 kgm. of contained uranium-235; and the United States of America has offered 5,000 kgm. of contained uranium-235, and will also make available nuclear materials equal in quantity to the total amount of such materials supplied by other members of the Agency, and on equivalent terms, up to July 1, 1960. Contributions of 250,000 dollars have also been offered to the fellowships fund and several member States have placed at the disposal of the Agency fellowships and training facilities to be taken up in the countries offering them. The United States has also announced its intention of presenting a technical library to the Agency.

Molecular Physics

THE editor, Prof. H. C. Longuet-Higgins, and the associate editor, Dr. J. H. van der Waals, of the new