

best known as a rheologist. He was president of the British Society of Rheology during 1951–53, his term of office including the Second International Congress on Rheology held at Oxford. As president, he also served as chairman of the organizing committee of this Congress, in which capacity his administrative abilities and keen business acumen were greatly appreciated.

Molecular Biology in the University of Oregon : Dr. A. Novick

DR. AARON NOVICK, who has been on the staff of the University of Chicago for eleven years, has recently been appointed director of the Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Oregon. He graduated in chemistry in 1940 and received the degree of Ph.D. in 1943, both in the University of Chicago. Dr. Novick's research has been principally in the genetics and physiology of micro-organisms, reaction kinetics, nuclear measurements and radiation chemistry. During 1943–47 Dr. Novick was with the Manhattan District Project, when he worked in the fields of radiation chemistry, radiochemistry and nuclear physics. In 1947 he was made a research associate with the rank of assistant professor in the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics of the University of Chicago. He worked as a Guggenheim Fellow at the Pasteur Institute in Paris during the year 1953–54 before returning to Chicago as associate professor.

European Organization for Nuclear Research

THE Council of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) recently approved contributions from the twelve member States totalling 55,000,000 Swiss francs for 1959 (compared with a budget of 56,000,000 Swiss francs for 1958). Good progress was made during 1958 in the construction of the Organization's two big particle accelerators and of other buildings and ancillary facilities. The first machine, a 600-MeV. synchrocyclotron, came into operation on August 1, 1957. It was recently used to demonstrate, for the first time, the two modes of decay of π -mesons—an experiment of critical importance to fundamental nuclear theory. In view of the rapid progress made at the CERN building-site during 1958, the second accelerator, the 25-GeV. proton-synchrotron, will probably be finished in 1960, the target date originally set. It will then be the biggest particle-accelerator in existence.

Prof. P. Scherrer (Switzerland) and Dr. G. Funke (Sweden) were elected as new members of the Committee of Council. Sir Harry Melville, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of the United Kingdom, was re-elected as member of the Committee. The following were also re-elected : M. F. de Rose (France) as president of the Council ; Prof. W. Heisenberg (German Federal Republic) and M. J. Willems (Belgium) as vice-presidents of the Council ; M. J. H. Bannier (Netherlands) as chairman of the Finance Committee ; Prof. E. Amaldi (Italy) as chairman of the Scientific Policy Committee ; and Prof. W. Heisenberg (German Federal Republic) and Prof. H. Alfvén (Sweden) as members of the Scientific Policy Committee.

Calder Hall Completed

ALL the reactors at the two Calder Hall nuclear power stations are now working. This stage was reached during the night of December 8–9 when the fourth reactor on the site went critical. The opera-

tion was successful and this reactor will now undergo a series of tests while working up to full power in preparation for linking with the grid system to provide electricity. There are two atomic stations at Calder Hall, known as 'A' and 'B'. Work on the first of these started in the summer of 1953 and on the second in 1955. Each station has two reactors and the first of the two in Calder 'A' started operating in May 1956. It achieved full power and was switched into the grid on October 17, 1956, by Her Majesty the Queen. It thus became the first atomic power station in the world to produce electricity on a commercial scale. Both the reactors on the first station have been successfully supplying electricity to the national grid system since February 1957. The power capacity of the four turbo-generators associated with the two reactors is 92 megawatts, of which about 70 megawatts is used by the grid. So far just over 750 million kilowatt hours have been supplied. The first reactor of Calder Hall 'B' started operating in March this year and has been running successfully. Delivery of power was delayed by an accident to a turbo-generator in June, but will probably take place before the end of the year. The last reactor to start operating will start production of electricity two or three months later. The two stations together will have a capacity of 184 megawatts and will supply 140 megawatts to the national grid. A similar station with four reactors is now nearing completion at Chapelcross, near Annan in Dumfriesshire. One of the reactors here is already operating and the whole station will be complete by the end of next year.

Import Duty on Scientific Apparatus and Instruments

IN a written Parliamentary reply on December 10, Sir David Eccles, president of the Board of Trade, stated that arrangements are being made for widening the scope of the arrangements for remitting duty on optical and scientific apparatus and instruments. The Board will be prepared to consider such apparatus and instruments imported on and after January 1, which satisfy the definition in the Import Duties Act, 1958, where the rate of duty is 25 per cent or more (minimum chargeable, £50). The President set out a list of apparatus and instruments which will be so considered, provided that they are not obtainable, for the time being, in the United Kingdom.

Josiah Wedgwood and Research

COMMENTING on the paragraph under this heading in *Nature* of October 25, p. 1130, Dr. A. T. Green, director of research of the British Ceramic Research Association, writes : "This is a striking example of his remarkable foresight, but I should like to point out that the letters between Wedgwood and Bentley, describing the former's efforts to persuade his fellow potters to co-operate in this venture, were rather fully extracted some 28 years ago in the "Wedgwood Bicentenary Volume" of the British Ceramic Society. The fact that Wedgwood, in 1775, proposed the formation of what might have been the first research association, has frequently been mentioned and is a matter of some pride to those of us engaged in ceramic research at the present time".

Northern Advisory Council for Further Education

THE eleventh annual report of the Northern Advisory Council for Further Education, which