

NEWS and VIEWS

Ministry of Supply : Scientific Research (Electronics and Guided Weapons) : Dr. E. V. D. Glazier

Dr. E. V. D. GLAZIER, who holds the post of director of Scientific Research (Electronics and Guided Weapons) in the Ministry of Supply, has been promoted to the rank of deputy chief scientific officer. Dr. Glazier, who was born in 1912, had his early training in general electrical and mechanical engineering in industry, joining the Engineer in Chief's Office of the General Post Office in 1933, when for the ensuing nine years he was engaged on the development of telephone systems. He graduated in the University of London and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. In 1942, he transferred under war-time arrangements to the Signals Research and Development Establishment, joining the Line Communication Group where he was responsible for the development of a wide range of signals equipment for the Army. He became head of the Line Communication Group in 1946, having in the interim spent two years in the Ministry of Supply headquarters. In 1950, he was transferred to lead the Research Division at Signals Research and Development Establishment and under his leadership the research group there made significant advances in a number of radio and electronic systems for Army use. In 1957, he returned to headquarters so that his practical training and research knowledge could be employed in advising on and co-ordinating the present and future research in electronics in the Ministry of Supply as a whole. Dr. Glazier is the secretary of the Radar and Signals Board of the Scientific Advisory Council. He is one of a band of people who, having moved progressively from application to research, are of very great value in the senior ranks of the Ministry of Supply.

Ministry of Supply : Electronics Research and Development : Dr. J. S. McPetrie

Dr. J. S. MCPETRIE has been appointed director general of Electronics Research and Development in succession to Dr. D. H. Black (see *Nature*, 182, 225; 1958). Dr. McPetrie has had a long and distinguished career in radio research. He joined the Radio Research Station of the National Physical Laboratory from the University of Aberdeen, and was engaged on early research on aeriels and propagation at very high frequencies. He also explored methods of generating the progressively shorter wave-lengths required for this work. He was the author of several early papers on the properties of metric waves. During the Second World War he joined the Ministry of Supply and was lent to the British Commonwealth Scientific Office in Washington. At the end of the War he returned to take charge of the newly formed Research Division at the Signals Research and Development Establishment, Christchurch, where he was responsible for a wide range of research problems in radio and electronics for the Army. In 1950, he was promoted to be in charge of the Radio Department at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where he was responsible for research and development in aircraft radio and navigational systems.

Dr. McPetrie has been a leading member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for more than 25 years, and he was honoured recently by election as chairman of the Radio Section for the session 1957-58. His year of office was notable for the num-

ber of highly successful meetings and international conferences that were organized. In his new appointment Dr. McPetrie will be responsible for research and development in communications and radar for the Naval Air Branch, Army and the Royal Air Force, and for many of the other fields in which electronic devices are contributing to defence and civil aviation.

British Scientific Attaché in Moscow

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has announced that a senior principal scientific officer is to be appointed scientific attaché to the British Embassy in Moscow (see *Nature*, 182, 292; 1958). There are at present only four British scientific attachés, namely those attached to H.M. Embassies at Washington, Paris and Bonn, with one scientific attaché attached to the Embassies at Stockholm, Oslo and Copenhagen, and working between them. Their duties include reporting on scientific developments in the countries in which they serve and advising the ambassador on scientific questions.

Science Laboratories in Schools

A TABLE circulated by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, in reply to a question regarding part-time day release in industry, shows that the percentage of boys under eighteen released to attend part-time day classes in 1956-57 has risen to 33.8 (from 27 per cent) and of girls to 8.5 (from 7 per cent). On July 24 Sir Edward Boyle gave the estimated capital cost of new science laboratories started in 1957-58 at schools maintained by local education authorities as £1,100,000 and of those due to start in 1958-59 as £2 million; of these figures £350,000 and £550,000, respectively, were at grammar schools; £600,000 and £1,200,000 at modern schools; and £150,000 and £250,000 at technical secondary schools. Questioned further on July 31, Sir Edward said that extensions to science accommodation at more than 100 grammar schools had been approved for the 1958-59 and 1959-60 building programmes. Although a recent survey reported in the *School Science Review* indicated that less than 10 per cent of maintained grammar schools had reported adequate science laboratories, 44 per cent of the schools had science accommodation conforming with the suggestion made in the Ministry's building bulletin.

Préhistoire Spéléologie Ariégeoise

THE activities of the Société Préhistorique de l'Ariège are not as well known as they should be. The first bulletin for 1946 appeared in 1948 and the present one under review is No. 12 (pp. 152-7 planches. Tarascon-sur-Ariège: M. Romain Robert, Place Jean-Jaurès, 1957). One of the better accounts of the great painted cave of Niaux from the pen of Abbé Breuil will be found in No. 5. Each number has been full of interesting articles. The present number is no exception, and it contains many good papers: the rhinoceros and the cave bear as depicted in upper palaeolithic art; aurignacian art in central Europe; notes on the Neolithic finds in the Department of the Aude; several shorter accounts of various activities of the Society. Publications by local societies tend to be overlooked and are not always easy to obtain. But prehistorians would be wise to keep in mind the activities of this flourishing society in the Ariège and their energetic president, Monsieur Robert.