

NEWS and VIEWS

Geology at Exeter:

Dr. Scott Simpson

DR. SCOTT SIMPSON, at present lecturer in the University of Bristol, has been appointed professor of geology in the University of Exeter in succession to Prof. A. Stuart, who has retired (see *Nature*, 181, 87; 1958). After receiving his early education at Highgate School, Scott Simpson proceeded to Clare College, Cambridge, and in 1937 took the second part of the Tripos in geology, selecting the alternative papers in palaeontology. His postgraduate training was at Frankfurt-am-Main, where the late Prof. Rudolf Richter set him the task of unravelling the structurally complex area of Devonian rocks between Mayen and Daun in the east Eifel. That success attended his efforts is clearly shown by the fact that Richter, rather characteristically, arranged for Scott Simpson to be formally awarded his doctorate by the University of Frankfurt-am-Main two years after the start of hostilities between Britain and Germany.

Scott Simpson was assistant lecturer in the Department of geology and mineralogy at the University of Aberdeen for the first two years of the Second World War before he was seconded for the next four years to the Department of Natural Philosophy, where he instructed Royal Artillery and R.A.F. cadets in elementary physics and also worked at the Radon Centre. He transferred in 1949 from a lectureship in geology at the University of Aberdeen to a corresponding academic post at the University of Bristol.

Here during the past decade he has acquired a reputation as a recognized authority in Britain on the stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Devonian rocks. His own researches in Devon, and those of his students, have already resulted in important correlations being made with Devonian rocks of parts of Germany, and the methods he has applied have resolved the complicated geology of large areas of Devon and Cornwall. Of recent years he has carried out pioneer work in the study of structures in sedimentary rocks due to burrowing organisms, and their interpretation in terms of the interplay of organic and sedimentary processes. His reputation extends beyond the British Isles and his researches are recognized in Germany, Holland and France.

Development and Research Appointments at the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd. :

Dr. W. Steven

DR. W. STEVEN, superintendent of the Development and Research Department Laboratory of the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., in Birmingham, is to be transferred on June 1 to the Development and Research Division of the International Nickel Co., Inc., New York, as director of research. He has also been elected an assistant vice-president of that company. Dr. Steven graduated in the University of Glasgow in 1939 and obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1942. After five years with William Jessop and Sons, Ltd., Sheffield, he joined the Mond Nickel Co. in 1947 as a

research metallurgist. In 1955 he was appointed superintendent of the laboratory.

Dr. G. L. J. Bailey

DR. G. L. J. BAILEY has been appointed superintendent of the Mond Nickel Development and Research Department Laboratory in Birmingham in succession to Dr. Steven. He took a B.Sc. (Hons.) degree at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in 1937 and obtained his Ph.D. in 1939. After working at the Admiralty Engineering Laboratory, West Drayton, he joined the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, where he became deputy research manager. Since 1955 he has been superintendent of the Platinum Metals Research Laboratory of the Mond Nickel Development and Research Department at Acton.

Dr. W. Betteridge

DR. W. BETTERIDGE has been appointed superintendent of the Platinum Metals Research Laboratory of the Mond Nickel Development and Research Department at Acton in succession to Dr. Bailey. Dr. Betteridge graduated in physics at the University of Birmingham in 1931, obtained his Ph.D. in 1933 and his D.Sc. in 1958. After serving with Joseph Lucas, Ltd., and the Bristol Aeroplane Company, he joined the Mond Nickel Co. in 1947, where he has been concerned primarily with the development of high-temperature materials, at first in the Birmingham Research Laboratory and more recently as development officer in London.

Submarine Defence Research

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on April 29, the Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr. C. Ian Orr-Ewing, said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization research centre on defence against submarines, which was being set up by SACLANT at La Spezia, would be financed, at least for the initial period, entirely by the United States, and was intended to augment the scientific effort devoted by the several Nato countries to anti-submarine warfare research. The centre would be concerned primarily with basic problems, but would also undertake some operational research. The number of British scientists and Royal Naval officers to be employed there was not yet settled, but the naval adviser on the Scientific Advisory Council which would direct the work of this unit would be the Chief of the Royal Naval Scientific Service.

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research : Lending Library

A LIST showing holdings of the Lending Library Unit of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of irregular serials being received from the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria has been issued (pp. ii+90).

The Editors regret that, due to difficulties in the printing industry, some sections of this issue of "Nature" have had to be curtailed