

NEWS and VIEWS

Mechanical Engineering at Belfast:

Prof. F. V. Warnock, O.B.E.

PROF. FREDERICK VICTOR WARNOCK will retire on September 30 from the chair of mechanical engineering at The Queen's University of Belfast. He received his engineering education at the Royal College of Science, Dublin, and has been a member of the Faculty of Applied Science and Technology at Belfast since its inception in 1921. He is now the sole surviving founder member. He was the first occupant of the chair of mechanical engineering, founded in 1955, though he had served as head of the Department in the Belfast College of Technology and as extra-mural professor in the University since 1938. Many of his former students hold positions of responsibility in universities, industry and research organizations, and they would all testify to his skill as a teacher. A wider public is familiar with his clarity of exposition through his book on "Strength of Materials".

In his long academic career at The Queen's University, Prof. Warnock has been actively concerned in the most successful collaboration between the University and the College of Technology, and as professor and dean of the Faculty, has been responsible for the planning of the new engineering building which will serve the needs of both bodies for advanced engineering studies. His main research interest lay in the shock properties of metals and, though he published a number of papers in the *Proceedings* of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Iron and Steel Institute, these do not reveal the full importance of his work. During the Second World War he was responsible for some experiments in shock testing of steels on behalf of the Admiralty, and these results have never been published. Much important work has been done on repeated impact testing in other universities by men who learned their techniques and received their inspiration from Prof. Warnock.

Dr. B. Crossland

THE appointment of Dr. B. Crossland to the chair of mechanical engineering at The Queen's University, Belfast, in succession to Prof. Warnock, has recently been announced. Dr. Crossland was educated at Simon Langton's Grammar School, Canterbury, and Nottingham University College, where he took a London honours degree in 1943. He obtained his practical experience with Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby, first as an apprentice and then as technical assistant in the experimental vibrations section which dealt with both reciprocating and the then novel gas turbine engines. After a brief period as a lecturer at Luton Technical College he was appointed to the staff of the Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Bristol, where in 1957 he was promoted to senior lecturer.

In 1947 Dr. Crossland obtained the degree of M.Sc. for a thesis on the "Axial Vibration of Crankshafts" and in 1954 the Ph.D. degree for a thesis on "The Effect of Fluid Pressure on the Shear Properties of Materials". These theses reflect a gradually changing preoccupation from problems in the field of vibrations and machines to those concerned with strength of materials, in particular plasticity and fatigue. To these latter subjects he has, in recent years, made important contributions; for example, in elucidating the effect of hydrostatic pressure on brittle materials, in determining the behaviour of thick tubes subjected to internal pressure, and in investigating the behaviour in relation to fatigue of materials subjected to cyclically varying triaxial stresses.

Automatic Programming of Digital Computers

THE first national conference devoted to problems of automatic programming of digital computers was held during April 1-3 at Brighton Technical College. Organized by the Mathematics Department, the

conference was attended by 111 representatives of computer manufacturers, research establishments, industry, universities and technical colleges. The conference recommended that Brighton Technical College be asked to establish, with the help of the profits of the conference and the assistance of computer manufacturers, a national information centre

The Editors regret the delay in publishing this issue of "Nature". From now on, every effort will be made to bring out succeeding issues as quickly as possible until the normal date of publication is resumed

on auto-programming. The aim of this centre would be to collect a comprehensive library of documents on the subject, to make available to subscribers, by a postal service and otherwise, copies of any such document required, and to publish, from time to time, in the British Computer Society's *Bulletin*, lists of new documents acquired. It was also suggested that the British Computer Society be asked to co-opt on to its sub-committee concerned with problems of a universal autocode a representative of the Brighton Technical College, as organizers of the conference. A list of definitions of commonly used terms, such as 'interpretive routine', 'translation routine', 'compiler', 'generator', etc., suggested in a paper by Dr. Stanley Gill, was circulated to the participants for comment. This list is also to be published in the Computer Society's *Bulletin* so that any member of the Society who was not at the conference may take part. The proceedings of the conference are to be published by the Pergamon Press.

British Association of Corrosion Engineers

THE British Association of Corrosion Engineers was formed at a luncheon given under the auspices of *The Corrosion Engineer* on May 29. The objects of the Association will be generally to promote the dissemination of technical information about corrosion matters and to develop by means of social activities the free interchange of information among