

wealth Institute of Entomology, and was responsible for starting and building up its research programme, both in the Centre laboratory and extra-murally in universities. In 1947, jointly with H. A. F. Lea (now chief locust officer of the Union of South Africa), he was responsible for successful aircraft spraying experiments against the red locust in Tanganyika. In 1950 he did field experiments in Somaliland and the Sudan which resulted in the complete replacement of wet bait by dry bait for controlling the desert locust with great economies in cost. In 1952 he was appointed director of the International Red Locust Control Service; in the following years, this Service was completely reorganized, made effective, and cheapened to about half its earlier maximum annual cost. Dr. Gunn was appointed C.B.E. in 1958 and he now leaves Africa to become director of the Tea Research Institute of Ceylon.

#### Mr. C. du Plessis

THE Council of the International Red Locust Control Service has invited Mr. C. du Plessis to become director, in succession to Dr. Gunn. Educated at Oudtshoorn and at Grey University College, Bloemfontein, he lectured in zoology at Grootfontein College of Agriculture for six years and in entomology at Glen for four years before beginning full-time research on stalk-borer at Kroonstad. Soon after the red locust plague reached South Africa, he began research under Prof. J. C. Faure, publishing mainly in the science bulletins of the Department of Agriculture, and becoming increasingly involved in control as well. In 1944, locust research, locust control, and administration, were combined under the newly enlarged post of chief locust officer, to which post Mr. du Plessis was appointed. He was responsible for containing within the outbreak areas a prolonged upsurge of the brown locust from 1948 until 1954; during this period, both control methods and administration were completely revolutionized. Representing South Africa on the International Red Locust Control Service Council for many years, he was elected president in 1954 in succession to Mr. G. B. Beckett, then Member for Agriculture in the Northern Rhodesia Government. He retired from the post of chief locust officer in December 1958.

#### Theoretical Mechanics at Southampton :

Prof. B. Thwaites

A THIRD chair of mathematics, with special reference to fluid mechanics, has been created at Southampton. The first holder of the chair will be Dr. Bryan Thwaites. Dr. Thwaites, after graduating in Cambridge with first-class honours in mathematics, spent three years in the National Physical Laboratory and was then appointed lecturer at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the Department of Aeronautical Engineering. In 1951 he became assistant master at Winchester College but maintained his contact with university teaching and research as visiting lecturer in fluid mechanics at the Imperial College. Dr. Thwaites has been a member of the Performance Sub-Committee of the Aeronautical Research Council and is at present a member of the Fluid Motion, Engine Aerodynamics and Laminar Boundary Layer Panels of that Council. He is chairman of the Aerofoil Theory Panel and editor of "Incompressible Aerodynamics" due to be published this year. His name is familiar in the form of the Thwaites flap and with his engineering interests it is

expected that his appointment will strengthen the already existing ties between mathematics and engineering in the University of Southampton. Dr. Thwaites's wide cultural and teaching interests will be particularly welcomed in the rapidly expanding University of Southampton.

#### Electrical Engineering at Southampton :

Prof. L. G. A. Sims

DR. SIMS, head of the Electrical Engineering Department and senior lecturer in electrical engineering in the University of Southampton, succeeded the late Mr. P. G. Spary in 1952, and he has now been made professor in the University. Dr. Sims studied under the late Prof. William Cramp at the University of Birmingham, graduating with first-class honours and a Bowen Research Scholarship in 1924. He obtained his M.Sc. with an award of a research prize. He joined the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Co., Ltd., under the late Sir Clifford Paterson. Later he joined the lecturing staff of the University of Birmingham, and although primarily concerned with power engineering, and founding the first electronics laboratory, he was associated with the first successful television reception in Birmingham received from the original London Baird transmitter. Dr. Sims initiated and directed researches at Birmingham upon the incremental properties of magnetic steels. In 1936 he was appointed head of the Electrical Engineering Department of the Northampton Polytechnic in London. On the power utilization and supply side, Dr. Sims was one of the first engineers in Britain to be interested in energy storage with the a.c. system and initiated research work upon electro-thermal storage methods. He has held senior teaching appointments in Government Service both at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. During the session 1957-58 Dr. Sims was chairman of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Southern Centre. His main ambition is that he and his staff shall advance the prestige of the already well-known Electrical Engineering Department in the University of Southampton, and liaison work with large industrial concerns in different parts of Britain together with new electrical courses may lead to a system of postgraduate scholarships in electrical engineering by the time of the University centenary in 1962.

#### Physics at the University College of North Staffs :

Prof. D. J. E. Ingram

DR. D. J. E. INGRAM has been elected to the chair of physics at the University College of North Staffordshire, in succession to Prof. F. A. Vick, who has become deputy director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell (*Nature*, 183, 861; 1959). Dr. Ingram was reader in electronics at the University of Southampton, where he went in 1952 to work with Prof. E. E. Zepler, now president of the British Institution of Radio Engineers. He took a first in physics at Oxford in 1948 and worked for three years under Prof. B. Bleaney on magnetic resonance. At Southampton he extended his work on microwave spectroscopy, gathering together a team of physicists, chemists and electronic engineers, which has applied the techniques of electron resonance to a variety of problems in physics and chemistry. This work has been particularly fruitful in studies of metallo-organic compounds, such as the haemoglobin molecule, in the investigation of breakdown processes