NEWS and VIEWS

Vice-chancellor of the University of Monash: Prof. J. A. L. Matheson

Prof. J. A. L. Matheson sailed for Australia before Christmas to take up his appointment as vice-chancellor of the University of Monash, Melbourne, and to begin his exciting and responsible task of building a new University. Matheson, who was educated at Bootham School, York, succeeded the late A. H. Gibson as Beyer professor of engineering in the University of Manchester in 1951, having been lecturer in civil engineering in the University of Birmingham from 1938 to 1946 and professor of civil engineering in the University of Melbourne from 1947 to 1950. During his tenure of the Beyer chair at Manchester, Matheson re-organized the engineering courses and planned new laboratories to house the post-war expansion. In addition, he played an important part in the wider field of university building and planning. He directed research into various aspects of theory of structures, including the use of scale-models and the load-carrying capacity of rigidly jointed triangulated steel frames. It was largely due to his guidance that so much has been done in Manchester to further the use of electronic digital computers for the analysis of complex structural problems. His work culminated earlier in the year in the publication of his book, "Hyperstatic Structures", which is impressive for its scope and scholarship.

Civil Engineering at Manchester: Prof. M. R. Horne

Dr. M. R. Horne, lecturer in the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge, has been appointed professor of civil engineering in the University of Manchester and will take up the post next summer. Dr. Horne was born on December 29, 1921, and was educated at Boston Grammar School and Leeds Grammar School before going to St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1939. He had a distinguished academic career, obtaining honours and the Archibald Denny Prize in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, 1941. He was awarded the John Winbolt Prize for an essay on an engineering subject in 1944. During 1941–45 Horne worked for the River Great Ouse Catchment Board as an assistant to the District Engineer, Bedford, surveying and carrying out reconstruction of weirs and sluices. He returned to the Department of Engineering, Cambridge, in 1945, joining the team which was then being assembled to continue the work, started before the War in Bristol, on the plastic behaviour of steel structures. He obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1950. In 1951 he was appointed an assistant director of research on the introduction of the postgraduate course of instruction on structures and materials, the first such course to be introduced by the Cambridge Engineering Department. Horne transferred to the post of University lecturer in 1957, in which year he was elected a Fellow of St. John's College. In the fifteen years that Horne has been back in Cambridge he has played a prominent part in the development of the theory of the plastic behaviour of structures and of the design method based on it.

Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory: Dr. F. Y. Henderson, C.B.E.

Dr. F. Y. Henderson, who retires from the directorship of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, in October, was reader in timber technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Initially interested in plant physiology, he took over Percy Groom's Sub-department of Technology of Woods and Fibres; the elementary text-book on wood technology which he wrote then proved specially popular with those in the timber trades. Henderson's tenure of the directorship marks a period in the history of the Forest Products Research Laboratory. He took over in 1945, when many relatively unknown woods were beginning to replace well-tried ones, and these needed investigation and assessment in relation to the traditional timbers; new and little-known insect and fungal pests claimed attention; plywood had developed enormously and the Laboratory played its part in research on such laminated wood. This work, and other aspects, like wood bending, machining and adhesives, might have been mentioned—it was Henderson's task to co-ordinate and guide. Moreover, the past few years have seen the enormous expansion of co-operative work with the Forestry Commission and the beginning of research on the pulping of home-grown timbers. The steady flow of important bulletins from the Laboratory emphasizes the volume of varied work carried out there since the War and, during this time, trade and private inquiries have occupied much of the time of the staff. Henderson's retirement marks the end, more or less, of this period. Relieved of most of the inquiry work, his colleagues have more time for the fundamental work for which the laboratory is well equipped. Moreover, reconstituted wood products, like hardboards and laminated wood, are replacing solid timber in many of its traditional uses and presenting their own special problems to the Laboratory.

Mr. H. Wooldridge, O.B.E.

Mr. Henry Wooldridge, who will succeed Dr. Henderson, has been a member since its formation of the Steering Committee of the Forest Products Research Laboratory. He has spent most of his career at the headquarters of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, where he is at present head of the Stations Division, and as such is responsible for liaison with all the Department's laboratories. Previously, he was deputy establishment officer in the Department, and before that he served two secretaries of the Department, Sir Frank Smith and Sir Edward Appleton, as private secretary. Mr. Wooldridge joined the Department in 1935 from the British Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he had been assistant secretary for five years. He was educated at Reading School and King's College, London.

Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries

Awards under the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme have