He retired in 1932 at the age of sixty, and the opportunity was then taken to separate the Department of Electrical Engineering at Southampton from Physics, and join it with the Departments of Civil and also Mechanical Engineering in the Engineering Faculty.

C. E. CHESTER

Mr. W. H. Searle, B.E.M.

WILLIAM SEARLE, who was for sixty-three years fisherman collector on the staff of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, died at Plymouth on April 6, at the age of eighty-four. 'Bill', as he was affectionately known by all, must live in the memory of a great number of biologists, from all over the world, who visited the Plymouth laboratory either as research workers or students. It can be truly said that he played a very important

part in the development of marine biology through his remarkable knowledge of the fauna and flora and its local distribution as far afield as Salcombe. He was able to produce almost any organism when required, though their specific names were not easy to interpret when marked by a broad Devonshire accent. Searle joined the Association's staff in December 1895, and worked tirelessly and devotedly, for many years single-handed, in small vessels which have become part of the history of marine biology, *Anton Dohrn*, *Busy Bee*, *Huxley*, *Oithona* and finally *Gammarus*, now in her thirty-seventh year.

He was elected an associate member of the Marine Biological Association in 1953. He also received the Queen's Coronation Medal; and in 1957 his services to science were recognized by the award of the British Empire Medal, of which he was very proud. He retired from service in 1958. F. S. RUSSELL

NEWS and VIEWS

New Director of the Science Museum, London : Dr. D. H. Follett

ON taking up his duties as director of the Science Museum in succession to Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott (see *Nature*, March 26, p. 888), Dr. D. H. Follett will relinquish his post as keeper of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Communications in the Museum, to which he was appointed in 1957. Dr. Follett graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1929, in the honours school of physics. He then entered the firm of Adam Hilger, Ltd., where he was engaged in developing the application of photoelectric methods, particularly to spectrophotometry. At the same time he carried on part-time research in cosmic rays at Birkbeck College under Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, for which he was awarded the internal degree of Ph.D. of the University of London. He joined the Science Museum staff in 1937 as assistant keeper in the Department of Physics, in which Department he remained, apart from the war years, until 1957, his special responsibility being for electricity and acoustics. During the War he served with the Meteorological Branch of the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve and was engaged, among various duties, on the operational development of the cathode-ray direction-finding system for locating thunderstorms. He was appointed secretary of the Science Museum Advisory Council on its reconstruction in 1951, a post which he held for six years in addition to his other museum duties. During this period he acquired a broad view of the Museum's functioning in all its aspects. Apart from his special interest in museums and the history of science—he is a Fellow of the Museums Association and a member of the British Society for the History of Science—Dr. Follett has wide interests in science generally and physics in particular. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, being vice-chairman of the Education Group, a Fellow of the Physical Society and a member of the Committee of Visitors of the Royal Institution.

Research at the Ministry of Aviation :

Mr. E. B. Carter

MR. E. B. CARTER, at present serving as an assistant director in the Engine Research and Development Division of the Ministry of Aviation,

has been promoted to deputy chief scientific officer and appointed director of engine production. He has a wide and varied experience of research and development on all types of aero-engine, ranging from piston engines through gas turbines to ramjets and rocket engines, which will be a considerable asset to him in his new job, in an engineering sphere where development and production are very closely linked together. Mr. Carter was born in 1912 in Halifax and received his early technical training at Halifax Technical College. On completion of the mechanical engineering course, he studied machine tool practice and was appointed assistant workshop instructor. In 1936, he became workshop superintendent and lecturer at Constantine College, Middlesbrough. Mr. Carter entered the Civil Service in 1939 on his appointment as a technical assistant in the Directorate of Engine Research and Development of the Air Ministry. From that time until 1955, his London Headquarters' service in the Air Ministry, Ministry of Aircraft Production, and Ministry of Supply alternated with periods of service as resident technical officer at the Bristol, Napier and de Havilland engine companies. In 1955, Mr. Carter was appointed assistant director in charge of research and development of ramjet and liquid-propellant rocket engines for aircraft and missiles, the post he relinquishes to take up his appointment as director of engine production.

Mr. J. D. Clare

MR. J. D. CLARE has been promoted to deputy chief scientific officer and appointed director of guided weapons research and development (Air) at the Ministry of Aviation Headquarters. In his new post he will be responsible for the development of the surface-to-air and air-to-air guided weapons for the Royal Air Force and the Army. Mr. Clare graduated at the University of Birmingham in 1940. He joined the General Electric Co., Coventry, as a student apprentice and later worked in the telecommunications laboratory on many aspects of carrier telephony systems. During this time he obtained his M.Sc. In 1945 he joined Sobell Industries as head of the radio laboratory and later became assistant chief engineer responsible for both the design and development for production of commercial radio and television receivers. In 1950 he joined the Ministry of Supply