

### Rear Admiral E. G. Irving, O.B.E.

REAR ADMIRAL IRVING, who succeeds as hydrographer of the Navy, joined *H.M.S. Royal Oak* as a cadet in August 1927, afterwards volunteering for the Surveying Service in 1931. Since then he has been constantly employed on hydrographic survey work in many parts of the world, including surveys in Sicily and Italy and in North-West Europe during wartime operations, when he was awarded the O.B.E. and mentioned in dispatches. He has commanded four of Her Majesty's surveying ships and has held the posts of naval assistant to the hydrographer and superintendent of charts in the Hydrographic Department.

### Biochemistry at King's College, London :

#### Prof. W. Robson

PROF. WILLIAM ROBSON, who is retiring from the chair of biochemistry at King's College in the University of London, is one of London's most senior biochemists. A graduate of King's College, he returned there in 1927 as lecturer in physiological chemistry. He has been a member of the Board of Studies in Biochemistry since its formation in 1929 and was appointed reader in biochemistry at King's College in 1931. In 1958 he became the first professor of the subject at King's. Besides many postgraduate students who have reason to be grateful to Prof. Robson for his encouragement and guidance, many generations of preclinical students in the London medical schools have had their biochemical studies influenced and shaped by his wisdom. In his retirement, Prof. Robson will have the satisfaction of remembering the large part he has played for more than thirty years in roaring and nurturing biochemistry from lusty infancy in the 'twenties to the promising strippling of the 'sixties.

#### Prof. H. Harris

DR. H. HARRIS, who will succeed Prof. Robson, is best known for his contributions to the study of human genetics by the application of biochemical techniques. He graduated in medicine from the Universities of Cambridge and Manchester and then served for three years as a medical officer in the Royal Air Force. He became interested in problems of human genetics during this period, and in 1947 began work with Prof. L. S. Penrose in the Galton Laboratory at University College, London, as a Leverhulme Scholar of the Royal College of Physicians. Dr. Harris was quick to realize the potentialities of chromatography and electrophoresis in genetical studies. His increasing requirements for biochemical facilities were met by his appointment to a joint lectureship in the Departments of Genetics and of Biochemistry. In 1953 Dr. Harris was appointed senior lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry of the London Hospital Medical College. Generous support from the Rockefeller Foundation from 1956 enabled him to expand his field of work. Dr. Harris has also contributed notably to the development of his subject by the production of his two books, "Introduction to Human Biochemical Genetics" in 1953 and "Human Biochemical Genetics" in 1959. These have presented lucid and critical surveys of rapidly expanding research in matters of great human importance.

### The Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute

THE Council of the Iron and Steel Institute has established a new gold medal award, to be known

as "The Medal of The Iron and Steel Institute". This Medal is to be presented on special occasions to societies which have, in the opinion of the Council of the Institute, rendered exceptional service to science or industry over a lengthy period. The first award of the Medal is to be made to the Royal Society, in recognition of its unique service to science over a period of three hundred years. The Medal was presented by the Hon. R. G. Lyttelton, past-president of the Iron and Steel Institute, at the Tercentenary Celebrations of the Royal Society on July 18.

### Advisory Council for Research and Development in Fuel and Power

IT is announced that the Scientific Advisory Council to the Minister of Power has been reconstituted and its terms of reference amended so as to emphasize that its advisory functions cover all aspects of research and development concerned with fuel and power from the laboratory to industrial application. In order to ensure the co-ordination of the advice which the Minister receives on research and development matters, the Council will take over the functions of the Minister's Fuel Efficiency Advisory Committee. This Committee is accordingly being wound up and the Council is being invited to appoint a standing Committee on Fuel Technology. The members of the Advisory Council on Research and Development are as follows: *Chairman*, Sir Alexander Fleck; *Deputy Chairman*, Captain (E) W. Gregson; *Members*, Lieut.-Colonel S. J. M. Auld (oil industry consultant), Dr. C. M. Cawley (chief scientist, Ministry of Power), Mr. T. B. Clark (Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.), Sir Josiah Eccles (deputy chairman, Electricity Council), Mr. W. K. Hutchison (deputy chairman, Gas Council), Dr. W. A. Macfarlane (managing director, National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service), Sir Harry Melville (secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), Mr. L. Rotherham (member for research, Central Electricity Generating Board), Prof. M. W. Thring (University of Sheffield), Dr. F. A. Vick (deputy director, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell), Mr. A. H. A. Wynn (scientific member, National Coal Board); *Assessors*, Mr. P. Chantler (economic adviser, Ministry of Power), Dr. E. Lee (director, Stations and Industry Divisions, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), Mr. H. T. Ramsay (director, Safety in Mines Research Establishment, Ministry of Power); *Secretariat*, Dr. E. N. Eden and Mr. E. W. Prior (Ministry of Power).

### The National Council for Technological Awards

THE report of the National Council for Technological Awards for the period April 1959-March 1960 records the agreement of the Minister of Education to an amendment of its constitution so as to ensure the inclusion of principals of colleges of advanced technology, and three such principals—Dr. E. C. Edwards, Dr. J. S. Tait and Dr. P. F. R. Venables—have been nominated by the Minister as members (Pp. 26. London: National Council for Technological Awards, 1960). During the year, thirteen courses at six colleges were recognized as leading to the Diploma in Technology, five courses rejected and seven courses referred back. Since September 1956, 100 courses in all, at twenty-three colleges, have been recognized as leading to the Diploma, and of these eighty-nine have commenced, and the number of students attending the first year