

example, to identify Newton's own copy of Barrow's "Euclid", and first and second editions of the "Principia," with his manuscript revisions and additions. The collection was purchased by the Pilgrim Trust and presented to Trinity College, Cambridge, in

the library of which it now rests; but for Zeitlinger's detective skill, scholarly enthusiasm and admiration for Newton, the opportunity of assembling this historic collection might have vanished for ever.

T. A. A. BROADBENT

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Meteorological Office : Headquarters Reorganization

THE present structure of the Meteorological Office was set up in 1957 as a result of the recommendations of the Brabazon Committee. The forthcoming move of the headquarters sections of the Office, now divided between London, Harrow and Dunstable, to Bracknell during 1961 has provided an opportunity to reconsider that organization in the light of changes which have taken place, and are likely to take place in the future, in meteorology. The division of the Office into two directorates, for services and for research, respectively, with an administrative division controlled by an assistant secretary, will remain unchanged. The balance between the research and services directorates has been improved by the creation of a new deputy director post, which has been filled by Mr. J. S. Sawyer, formerly chief forecasting research officer. He will be deputy director (dynamical research), in charge of climatological research in addition to dynamical and synoptic research. This reflects the view that forecasting work should be closely integrated with climatological investigations. The importance of the relation between the latter and long-range forecasting, in particular, is emphasized by the transfer of long-range forecasting research from the synoptic research to the climatological research branch.

Two aspects of the work of the directorate of services have increased greatly in importance since 1957. One is the rapid growth of public services, and this is catered for by the creation of an assistant director (general services) post, whose main concern will be agricultural services and the Weather Information Centres. The Climatological Services Branch will now be responsible for all climatological inquiries of a routine nature, including world climatology and marine climatology (formerly dealt with by the Climatological Research and Marine Meteorology Branches, respectively). The second development is the increasing complexity of the problems of data processing, and a new post, assistant director (support services), has been created to deal with these problems. The creation of the new branch will facilitate the development of an integrated system of data collection, processing and storage, a problem which has been the subject of much intensive work in the Office during the past few years.

#### Dr. J. M. Stagg, C.B., O.B.E.

ON September 7, Dr. J. M. Stagg retired from his position as director of services of the Meteorological Office. Dr. Stagg, who comes from Dalkeith, Midlothian, joined the Meteorological Office in 1926, and during 1932-33 led the highly successful British Polar Year Expedition to Fort Rae in Canada. His name soon became well known among geophysicists, and in 1939 he was appointed superintendent of Kew Observatory, where he carried out some notable work

in radiation. In 1943, Dr. Stagg was made chief meteorological adviser to the Supreme Commander, Allied Forces, Europe, and it was he who briefed General Eisenhower in preparation for the D-day landings in Normandy in 1944. For his war-time services Dr. Stagg was made an Officer of the Legion of Merit by the President of the United States. After the War, Dr. Stagg was made principal deputy director of the Meteorological Office, and in 1957 he was appointed to the newly created post of director of services, responsible for the 'operational' side of the Office. His keen physical insight and excellent administrative qualities made him outstandingly successful in this capacity. He was created a C.B. in 1954. In the international field, Dr. Stagg has taken a keen interest in the activities of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and he was for a time general secretary of that Union. In 1955, he was awarded the Gauss-Weber Medal for his contributions to geomagnetism. It is understood that he intends to resume his work in this field during his retirement.

#### Dr. A. C. Best, O.B.E.

ON September 8, Dr. A. C. Best succeeded Dr. J. M. Stagg as director of services of the Meteorological Office. After graduating with first-class honours in mathematics and physics at the University College of Wales, Cardiff, Dr. Best joined the Meteorological Office in 1926 as a junior professional assistant. During his career he has had a wide experience of both the research side and the operational side of the Office, at home and abroad. His early work was in the field of atmospheric turbulence, culminating in the publication of an important Geophysical Memoir on the transfer of heat and momentum in the lowest layers of the atmosphere. His later research has been devoted mainly to cloud physics, and he has written a number of papers on the formation and size distribution of raindrops and cloud droplets. He was awarded the L. G. Groves Memorial Prize for Meteorology in 1952, and made O.B.E. in 1953. Since 1955 Dr. Best has been a deputy director on the services side of the Meteorological Office.

### Zoology in the University of Delhi :

#### Prof. B. R. Seshachar

PROF. B. R. SESHACHAR, who has been professor of zoology in the University of Mysore since 1946, has been appointed professor of zoology in the University of Delhi. After a few papers on teleosts, anura and palaeontology, he worked during 1932-45 on *Gymnophiona*, describing new species and investigating their development, their germ cells and their cytology. His discovery of a homologue of Bidder's organ is perhaps not universally known. Since 1946 he has been mainly concerned with ciliate Protozoa. India can probably fill many gaps in our existing knowledge of this group. For example, Seshachar has made a