

## NEWS and VIEWS

Post Office Radio Services Department :  
Mr. T. A. Davies, O.B.E.

MR. T. A. DAVIES, inspector of wireless telegraphy in the Wireless Telegraph Section of the Radio Services Department of the Post Office, is to retire at the end of the year. Mr. Davies took a love of the sea to his job as head of the Wireless Telegraphy Section in 1948. This was to prove useful in his later work. After five years apprenticeship in the Royal Dockyard in his home city of Portsmouth, he obtained a first-class honours degree in engineering and joined the Post Office in 1925. While working in the Radio Branch of the Engineering Department he was able to use his knowledge of shipping in providing radio communications to ships and safety services for them while at sea. As inspector of wireless telegraphy he has been responsible for control and operation of the ship-shore services, inspection of ships' radio equipment, and the examinations for candidates for the Postmaster-General's Certificate. Twelve radio stations are administered from the headquarters in London.

Mr. R. Billington

MR. REG BILLINGTON has been appointed inspector of wireless telegraphy in the Wireless Telegraph Section of the Radio Services Department of the Post Office to succeed Mr. Davies. After obtaining an honours degree in the University of London, Mr. Billington worked in industry for two years before joining the Post Office Engineering Department in 1936. For a period during the Second World War he was seconded to the Iraq Government as chief engineer and returned to the Post Office in 1945, where he soon became an assistant inspector of wireless telegraphy. In 1948 he became deputy inspector.

Applied Electromagnetic Theory Section at the  
U.S. National Bureau of Standards :

Mr. J. R. Johler

MR. J. R. JOHLER has been appointed chief of the new Applied Electromagnetic Theory Section, National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. The section will be located in the Radio Systems Division at the Laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards at Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Johler's Section will be responsible for developing techniques for the solution of electromagnetic theory problems in terrestrial radio-wave propagation by numerical analysis, analytic and asymptotic series techniques, and will direct its work to electronic computer solutions. Much of the Section's work will be devoted to programmes of other Sections and Divisions in providing theoretical computations of propagation in various media. Since 1953, Mr. Johler has worked principally in the field of radio navigation systems evaluation, in low and very low frequency radio-wave propagation, and sferics (radio noise caused by lightning flashes). During 1953-55 he was responsible for the theoretical prediction of the performance of certain pulse-type radio navigation systems. Before joining the National Bureau of Standards in 1946, Mr. Johler had worked on the computational and engineering details of exterior

ballistics at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md.

Atlantic Regional Laboratory, National Research  
Council, Canada : Dr. A. C. Neish

DR. A. C. NEISH has been appointed director of the Atlantic Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council of Canada, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in succession to Dr. E. Gordon Young. Dr. Neish studied at Nova Scotia Agricultural College; he obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from Macdonald College, majoring in agricultural chemistry, and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. (chemistry) from McGill University. His experience ranges from soils analysis and soils surveys at the Canada Department of Agriculture, and sessional lecturer, Department of Chemistry, McGill University (1942-43), to his research work with the National Research Council, first in the Division of Applied Biology (1943-48) and then with the Prairie Regional Laboratory at Saskatoon, Sask., where, in 1956, he was appointed head of the Physiology and Biochemistry of Plants Section.

Royal Society Expedition to Tristan da Cunha

THE Royal Society is to send a scientific expedition to examine the recent volcanic activity on the island of Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic. This activity is of considerable interest to geologists in Great Britain and the proposal is to mount an expedition which will include four or five geologists, leaving Cape Town some time during January 1962, to spend 2-3 months on the island. It is also proposed to include a zoologist and a botanist in the expedition to study any effects which the evacuation of the population of the island may have had on the flora and fauna. The expedition will be concerned not only with a detailed examination of the present volcanic activity but also to determine as accurately as possible the past geological history of the Island. The scientific direction of the expedition is under the control of Prof. W. Q. Kennedy, professor of geology in the University of Leeds, with Prof. C. F. A. Pantin, professor of zoology in the University of Cambridge, as biological adviser, and with the co-operation of the Nature Conservancy.

H.M.S. *Jaguar* will be visiting Tristan da Cunha briefly later this month and advantage is being taken of this to send two geologists aboard the ship to make a preliminary investigation prior to the departure of the main expedition. These two geologists are Dr. R. W. Le Maitre, of the British Museum (Natural History), and Dr. P. G. Harris, of the Department of Geology, University of Leeds.

Science in Parliament

THE Parliamentary Secretary for Science, Mr. D. Freeth, dealt with a series of questions on science on December 5, ranging from nuclear energy, red deer stags on the Island of Rhum, engineering designers, strontium research, radioactivity, medical research on animals, the emigration of scientists, space exploration, the employment of scientists and the report on the long-term demand for scientific manpower. Mr. Freeth said that the Minister for Science is not satisfied with the present supply of engineering