

the University of Birmingham he took up his present post at Oxford as senior research officer in physics. Since 1956 he has also been a Fellow and lecturer at Wadham College. During 1959-60 he served as visiting professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California.

Prof. Blin-Stoyle is widely recognized as one of the ablest young theoretical nuclear physicists. He has made valuable contributions to the theory of nuclear structure, with special emphasis on nuclear moments and  $\beta$ -decay. His main object in this work is to use the nuclear properties to learn about more fundamental things, such as the possible charge dependence or parity non-conservation of nuclear forces, and the nature of weak interactions. He has also been concerned with the theory of quantum fields and reactions of polarized nuclei. He is much appreciated as a tutor and lecturer as well as for his research work and, although his departure will be sadly felt in Oxford, he should have greater possibilities at Sussex for implementation of his progressive ideas on the teaching of physicists. His appointment promises much for the future development of physics at the new university.

#### Engineering Group of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority :

##### Mr. J. B. W. Cunningham

MR. JAMES BERNARD WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, who resigns as managing director of the Engineering Group of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority as from January 20, 1962, was born in Middlesbrough, Yorks., on December 9, 1911. During 1928-39 he served as an apprentice with Cochrane and Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough, and Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough, rising to works manager. During 1939-44 he was assistant works manager at Dewrance and Co., Ltd., London, and during 1944-47 was works manager at Pegsons, Ltd., Coalville. Mr. Cunningham then joined the Department of Atomic Energy of the Ministry of Supply at Risley, Lancs., as senior engineer (supply). In 1948 he became assistant chief engineer (design) and then was promoted to deputy chief engineer (design) in 1950, and chief engineer (design) in 1953. He continued to hold this post on the formation of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority a year later and in 1956 was appointed deputy director (reactors) and in 1957 deputy director (industrial power). In the following year he became director of industrial power, and in 1959, on the division of the Industrial Group, Mr. Cunningham became deputy managing director (technical) of the Production Group. He was appointed to his present post in April this year.

##### Mr. H. V. Disney, C.B.E.

MR. HAROLD VERNON DISNEY, who is to succeed Mr. J. B. W. Cunningham as managing director of the Engineering Group of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, was born in Ruddington, Notts., on July 2, 1907. He was educated at Ilkeston and at University College, Nottingham. After apprenticeship with G. R. Turner, Langley Mill, Notts., Mr. Disney went as a designer to International Combustion, Derby, in 1931. He joined Imperial Chemical Industries (Alkali), Ltd., Northwich, in 1935 as a design engineer on chemical plant projects. In 1940 he was seconded by Imperial Chemical Industries for special duties on the construction of Ministry of Supply propellant and filling

factories, and in 1944 became deputy director (filling factories supply). Mr. Disney was a member of the original team which started the Department of Atomic Energy at Risley in February 1946 and was appointed chief engineer, services and supply, in 1947. In 1950 he became chief design engineer for the diffusion plant at Capenhurst, and in 1957 was promoted to deputy director (defence plants) at the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority. He was appointed director of engineering of the Industrial Group in May 1958, becoming director of engineering of the Development and Engineering Group in July 1959 and deputy managing director of the Engineering Group in 1961. As from November 1, and until he takes over full responsibilities, he will be managing director (designate) of the Group.

#### Royal Society of Edinburgh : Officers for 1961-62

At the annual statutory meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on October 24, the following officers and members of Council were elected: *President*, Prof. E. L. Hirst; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. T. R. Bolam, Dr. Douglas Guthrie, Dr. A. W. Greenwood, Prof. R. A. Rankin, Dr. C. E. Lucas, Prof. J. A. Macdonald; *General Secretary*, Prof. Norman Feather; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Dr. Mowbray Ritchie, Prof. A. E. Ritchie; *Treasurer*, Dr. J. R. Peddie; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Dr. R. Schlapp; *Members of Council*, Prof. H. A. Brück, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, Prof. G. L. Montgomery, Prof. W. L. Weipers, Prof. J. H. Burnett, Prof. C. F. Davidson, Prof. D. C. Paek, Dr. A. B. Stewart, Prof. Jack Allen, Dr. S. C. Curran, Dr. G. H. Mitchell, Dr. Magnus Pyke.

#### Jubilee of the Atomic Nucleus

THERE have been speculations on the nature of atoms since the days of the ancient Greeks, but the first firm foundation on which modern ideas are built was the nuclear theory put forward by Rutherford in Manchester in 1911. Jubilee celebrations and an international conference were held in Manchester recently, and now the Science Museum has set up a small group of exhibits to illustrate various theories of atomic structure and Rutherford's great contribution. The exhibits are on view in the Atomic Physics Section of the Museum. They include a group of models of atoms as visualized by J. J. Thomson before Rutherford's theory; a further group illustrating Rutherford-Bohr atoms; several historic photographs relating to Rutherford's great Manchester period of research; and a working mechanical model illustrating how the observed scattering of  $\alpha$ -rays by heavy atoms led him to the inescapable conclusion that the atom must have a small 'hard core' (which is now known as the nucleus). This nucleus itself is now being investigated with all the powerful and elaborate apparatus of modern physics and engineering. The Science Museum exhibit makes no attempt to illustrate the many practical applications of our knowledge of the structure of the atom, as these will be dealt with in a full-scale special exhibition, "Atoms at Work," which will be staged in the Museum by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in March 1962.

#### Centenary of Plastics 1862-1962

A JOINT committee of the Plastics Institute and the British Plastics Federation has been set up to organize a number of events in connexion with a