

as a national trustee. In 1959 he received the first Burgess Memorial Award of the Washington Chapter, American Society for Metals.

B.B.C. Engineering Division :

Mr. T. H. Bridgewater

MR. T. H. BRIDGEWATER has been appointed to the post of chief engineer (television), with effect from February 1, 1962. This is a new designation for the post of controller, Television Service Engineering. He succeeds Mr. M. J. L. Pulling, who has been appointed to the new post of assistant director of engineering (see *Nature*, 193, 18; 1962). Mr. Bridgewater, a Fellow of the Television Society, is fifty-three years of age and was educated at Cranbrook and the University of Toronto. He joined the B.B.C. in 1932 as an assistant maintenance engineer after working for four years on television development with J. L. Baird. When the B.B.C. Television Service was started in 1936, he was appointed a senior maintenance engineer at the Alexandra Palace Station. During the War, Mr. Bridgewater was engaged on radar work with the Royal Air Force and attained the rank of Squadron Leader. He returned to the B.B.C. in 1946 and became engineer-in-charge (television outside broadcasts) the same year. He was appointed superintendent engineer (television outside broadcasts) in 1952, and was redesignated superintendent engineer (television—regions and outside broadcasts) in 1959, from which post he has taken up his new appointment. As chief engineer (television) Mr. Bridgewater becomes responsible to the Assistant Director of Engineering and to the Director of Television Broadcasts for the technical aspects of all the B.B.C.'s television operations.

Television and the British Broadcasting Corporation

In a debate in the House of Commons on January 30 on a motion to approve the Licence and Agreement of November 6, 1961, between the Postmaster-General and the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Assistant Postmaster-General, Miss Mervyn Pike, explained that the resolution extended the Corporation's Charter to July 29, 1964, the date of expiry of the Licence, which was also the date of expiry of the Television Act, 1954. Clause 27 of the current Licence, which disqualified members of the House or of the Senate or House of Commons of Northern Ireland from any benefit arising from the contract, is deleted in view of the House of Commons Disqualification Act, 1957. Miss Pike said that more than 600 papers had already been submitted to the Pilkington Committee, but debate on the issues before that Committee would be premature. In replying to the debate, which was notable for the strong support expressed for local broadcasting, Miss Pike insisted that a decision on line definition was essential before Britain entered into heavy capital investment in connexion with colour television. After referring to the changes in overseas broadcasting recently announced, Miss Pike referred to the Corporation's plans to improve and extend both television and VHF-sound coverage by means of a programme of satellite stations, for which the Corporation's engineers had designed equipment, known as a 'translator', which picked up the vision and sound signals from an existing station and re-radiated them on another channel. The scheme provided for 27 television stations and 21 three-programme VHF-

sound stations, and it was hoped that nearly all would be on the air by the end of 1963.

New Trends for the British Broadcasting Corporation

IN an address on public service broadcasting in Britain to the Canadian Club of Ottawa on November 24, 1961, and now issued as newsletter No. 4, December 1961, of the *B.B.C. Record*, Mr. H. Carleton Greene, director-general of the B.B.C., summarizes what the British Broadcasting Corporation hopes for from the Pilkington Report and subsequent Government decisions. First, support for the concept of public service broadcasting and of the B.B.C. as the national instrument of broadcasting for audiences at home and abroad. Secondly, a second B.B.C. television programme, so that, with two services planned jointly, the public can be offered a genuine choice of alternative programmes. Thirdly, a change in line standards from the present 405 lines to 625 lines to bring us into line with the rest of Europe. Fourthly, the development of colour television as soon as a decision has been made about line standards. The B.B.C. is planning experimental colour transmission on 625 lines to start in 1962. Fifthly, an extension of radio, which is undergoing a remarkable revival in public interest. The B.B.C. wishes to extend its existing network services, to add a fourth service in the form of local broadcasting in the main urban centres and in some rural areas where there is a genuine sense of community. Sixthly, an increase in the licence fee sufficient to permit the programme of development. A valuable national asset is worth paying for.

British Overseas Information Services

REPLYING for the Secretary for Technical Cooperation in the House of Commons on January 23, Mr. P. Thomas, joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that proposed expenditure on overseas information services for 1962-63 would be rather higher than in the current year, higher costs and expansion at home outweighing the savings of £600,000 overseas referred to on December 19. Some of the latter savings would be met by the British Council postponing contemplated expansion, but generally he hoped it would be possible to expand these services. Mr. Thomas also stated that, after consulting with the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Government had now completed a comprehensive review of external broadcasting and had worked out a long-term policy based on two fundamental principles. First, Britain's effort should be concentrated on those areas where sound broadcasting is the most effective information medium and, secondly, that the broadcasts should be heard without difficulty even on the cheaper types of set. A major programme of building new transmitters had been approved which would cost more than £4.5 million and make it much easier to hear the B.B.C. in areas where it is believed sound broadcasting is most valuable, particularly in Asia and Africa. The Corporation's services in Russian, in Hausa, and in English for East Africa would be expanded and the Thai service resumed. Simultaneously, the Corporation would curtail its services to the United States and discontinue a small service for South Africa and use of a small transmitter in Western Germany. Further economies to help meet the cost of running the new transmitters were being discussed with the Corporation.