

National Food Survey Committee he came to have an extensive knowledge of nutrition. But his main interest was in size and structure of British agriculture viewed as a component of the national economy, a subject on which Nash felt that the British agricultural industry was both too large and too expensive. He would not, however, have wished to be remembered only as a critic. Most of his criticisms were accompanied by constructive suggestions; and in particular

his sympathy was readily engaged by the difficulties experienced by many small Welsh farmers from their unfavourable environment and insufficient size of farm. Had he lived to ordinary retiring age there is no doubt that he would have done much more writing on this and allied subjects, and that it would have had the same originality and lucidity that were the main features of his work up to the time of his early death.

J. H. KIRK

NEWS and VIEWS

Physics at Sheffield: Prof. G. E. Bacon

DR. G. E. BACON, at present deputy chief scientific officer at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been appointed to a chair of physics at the University of Sheffield as from October 1963. The University has decided to experiment with a system in which the headship of the Department of Physics will be held in turn for a period of three years by each of the two professors concerned, and Dr. Bacon will assume the headship on his arrival, under this arrangement. Dr. Bacon was educated at Derby School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took Firsts in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos. In 1939 he joined the Air Ministry Research Establishment and was eventually in charge of a group concerned with ground radar research and development at what was then the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern. He was seconded to Chalk River, Canada, for a period, soon after going to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, and since 1948 has been principally engaged in neutron diffraction experiments. His book on this subject is well known as an important work and he has published numerous contributions in this field. It is expected that Dr. Bacon will continue his work on neutron diffraction with particular reference to magnetic ordering in metals and alloys through arrangements to be made outside the University, and a programme of X-ray experiments designed to elucidate further the electronic structure of molecules and solids will be built up following Dr. Bacon's arrival at Sheffield. Dr. Bacon will bring very wide experience in research on the physics of solids to the chair at Sheffield, and with it energy and enthusiasm for implementing new ideas on the teaching side, particularly on the training of postgraduate students, and it is expected that this aspect of the work of the Department of Physics will build up rapidly over the next few years.

Head of Space Department, Royal Aircraft Establishment: Mr. E. G. C. Burt

MR. E. G. C. BURT has been appointed head of Space Department, Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in succession to Dr. A. W. Lines, who has taken up an appointment with the European Preparatory Commission for Space Research. Mr. Burt, who is forty, was educated at Yeovil School and Queen Mary College, University of London, where he graduated with a first class honours degree in electrical engineering in 1943. After serving in the Royal Air Force, he joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1947, where as a scientific officer

he worked in the field of computers and servo-mechanisms. He was promoted to senior scientific officer in 1950, to principal scientific officer in 1953, and to senior principal scientific officer in 1955, when he became superintendent of the Dynamic Analysis Division of Guided Weapons Department. During this period he published a number of papers concerned with stochastic processes in control and guidance systems and the theory of optimization, and he was awarded the Navigation Prize for his lecture to the Royal Aeronautical Society on this subject. After the launching of the first Earth satellite in 1957 Mr. Burt took a leading part in the Royal Aircraft Establishment's work on satellite tracking, and the correlation of observation with theory concerning the effects of the Earth's oblateness. On the formation of Space Department at the beginning of this year he was appointed head of its Dynamics Division; he has taken an active part in the Department's work—in particular, on communication satellites, where he has made a number of contributions to attitude control theory and orbital patterns.

British Committee for Biological Education

THE Royal Society and the Institute of Biology have established a Joint Committee to report on desirable changes in the teaching of biology in the United Kingdom. It is hoped that this Committee will, through its representative membership, ensure that the merits of various proposals for changes in syllabuses, examinations and teaching methods can be assessed. The Committee will have close liaison with the group of biologists seconded to the Nuffield Foundation in order to produce texts, teachers' guides, apparatus, films and visual aids for the biological education of children from eleven to sixteen years of age. The membership of the Committee is: Prof. W. O. James and Prof. M. M. Swann (Royal Society); Sir Gerard Thornton and Mr. J. B. Cragg (Institute of Biology); Dr. A. Urie (Ministry of Education—observer); Dr. Lucy Boyd (Scottish Education Department—observer); Dr. H. G. Vevers (Biological Council); Mr. W. H. Dowdeswell (Science Masters' Association); Miss V. J. Evans (Association of Women Science Teachers); Mr. L. C. Comber (Secondary Schools Examination Council). Individuals selected for the Committee from universities, examining boards, technical colleges and teacher training colleges include: Prof. T. A. Bennet-Clark, Mr. D. A. Coult, Prof. G. E. Newell, Dr. T. G. Onions and Mr. L. Wolff. The secretariat for the Committee is being provided by the Institute of Biology (41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7).