

instrument industry with an apprenticeship to the Cambridge Instrument Co., which he entered in 1913. After two years in the armed forces in the First World War, Mr. Stubbens spent four years with British Thomson-Houston Ltd. in Rugby but took an early opportunity of returning to his native city when he was appointed chief inspector with Pye Radio Ltd. in 1925.

In August 1934 Mr. Stubbens joined Unicam Instruments, the new enterprise started a few months earlier by his brothers, the late Mr. Sidney Stubbens and Mr. John Stubbens, who is the present head of the model shop at Unicam. Pioneer conditions made it possible—essential even—for “E. C. S.” to show his many talents, and he served his new company in several capacities before finding his true métier when, during the Second World War, he took charge of production at the London Instru-

ment Co., seconded to Unicam for the duration. At the end of hostilities he returned to the main Unicam factory as works manager and began the happy association with old colleagues and new friends that has now come to an end.

He held strongly to the belief that efficiency is closely related to congenial working conditions and set himself to create both, as much by his personal example as by his executive activities. His success contributed largely to the major expansion of Unicam in recent years. A lively personal interest in the welfare of his staff found expression in his work as chairman of the Company's Sports and Social Club, to which he devoted his time and energies in full measure.

Mr. Stubbens leaves a widow to whom his many friends extend their profound sympathy.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Soil Mechanics at Manchester: Prof. P. W. Rowe

DR. PETER WALTER ROWE, at present reader in soil mechanics in the University of Manchester, has been granted the status of professor of soil mechanics at that University. Dr. Rowe went with a Merchant Venturer Scholarship from Bristol Grammar School to the University of Bristol, where he graduated with first class honours in civil engineering in 1942. After three years as a junior scientific officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, he joined Sir Robert McAlpine and Son, Ltd. In 1947 he was appointed lecturer in civil engineering at University College, Dundee, where he conducted research on anchored sheet pile bulkheads, for which he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. Dr. Rowe went to Manchester in 1952 as a lecturer in engineering and was promoted to a senior lectureship in 1954. He was awarded the degree of D.Sc. in 1956 and was appointed reader in soil mechanics in 1958. He has organized in Manchester short postgraduate courses in soil mechanics which have attracted senior workers from many parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. He has lectured widely in the United States and at international conferences.

### Genetics at Liverpool: Prof. P. M. Sheppard

DR. P. M. SHEPPARD, reader in genetics at the University of Liverpool, has been appointed to the newly established chair of genetics at that University. Dr. Sheppard, who is forty-one years of age, was educated at Marlborough College and at Worcester College, Oxford, where he graduated with honours in zoology in 1948, and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in 1951. From 1951 until 1956 he served as a research officer in the Department of Geology and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Oxford. During 1954–55 he held a Rockefeller fellowship and worked at Columbia University, New York. He was appointed a senior lecturer in genetics at the University of Liverpool in 1956 and a reader in 1959. Dr. Sheppard has served on the Committee of the Genetical Society of Great Britain and has worked extensively in the field of natural selection and heredity. He is especially interested in the genetics of butterflies and moths.

### Signals Research and Development Establishment, Christchurch, Hants: Mr. R. J. Lees

MR. R. J. LEES has been appointed director of the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch, Hants, in succession to Mr. R. V. Whelpton. Mr. Lees, who is at present head of the Instruments and Air Photography Division of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, was born in 1917. He joined the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern (now the Royal Radar Establishment), in 1939, where he remained until moving to his present post at the Royal Aircraft Estab-

lishment in 1959. While at Malvern he was largely concerned with work on guided missiles, being superintendent of the guided weapons section in 1951. In 1953 he was appointed superintendent, experimental physics, in 1955 director of scientific research (guided weapons), and in 1956 head of airborne radar at the Royal Radar Establishment.

### Ministry of Aviation Science Officers in Industry

In a written answer in the House of Commons on December 10, the Minister of Aviation, Mr. J. Amery, stated that in the past ten years applications to take up posts with industrial firms had been approved from one senior principal scientific officer, one principal scientific officer, four senior scientific officers, three senior experimental officers, two chemists and nine engineers. Mr. Amery emphasized that the Department employed several thousands of scientists, engineers and technical staff of potential value to industry, and that it had been the object of successive Ministers to ensure that, while industry was not denied the services of some very able people, nor they themselves the chance to make a new career, this fruitful exchange should not be allowed to influence the placing of contracts or to lead to favours being sought or given.

### Grants for Education Research in Great Britain

In a written answer in the House of Commons on December 11, the Minister of Education, Sir Edward Boyle, listed grants totalling £183,000 for the financial year 1962–63 made or approved under the Educational Services and Research Regulations, 1946. Besides £58,000 over five years to the National Foundation for Educational Research for a study of the effects of streaming in primary schools and £21,000 over three years to the same Foundation, as well as £20,000 for a four-year study of the merits of block- and day-release, these include: £20,000 to the Brunel College of Technology for a five-year study of the learning of intellectually complex material; £13,000 to the Department of Education, Sheffield, for a three-year project on programmed learning; £15,000 to the Educational Foundation for Visual Aids for the audio-visual aids experimental development unit; £10,000 to the Department of Sociology, Manchester, for a four-year study of the effects of home life on school performance; £6,000 to the Department of Education, Birmingham (in association with the Department of English, Leeds), for a three-year project of oral English tests in the Certificate of Secondary Education; £5,000 to the Department of Education, Swansea, for a three-year study of teaching educationally sub-normal children. Grants totalling £46,800 for special education services include £14,500 to the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchange,