

October 1 (the Royal Institution and University of Sheffield posts will be held simultaneously). He was a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, from 1952 until 1954 and assistant director of the British Rayon Research Association from 1954 until 1955. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1960 for his work on flash photolysis and its applications to the study of free radicals and chemical processes. He has previously given a discourse and several lectures in the series for schools which are given every term at the Royal Institution. There have only been three previous professors of chemistry at the Royal Institution—Humphry Davy, W. T. Brande and Sir Edward Frankland. Prof. Porter's appointment is therefore a revival of a professorship which has not been occupied since 1868.

#### Light Division at the National Physical Laboratories:

Dr. J. Dyson

DR. JAMES DYSON has been appointed superintendent of the Light Division of the National Physical Laboratory in succession to Dr. L. A. Sayce, who is retiring. Dr. Dyson is at present optics consultant with Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., and will take up his new post in the summer. Dr. Dyson comes from Burton-in-Lonsdale, in the West Riding, and was educated at Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale. After graduating in mechanical sciences from Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1936, he joined the British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., at Rugby as a student apprentice. He then worked for three years as an instrument transformer engineer before transferring to the research laboratory to work on radar aerials, silicon rectifier crystals, industrial applications of microwaves and projection television. In 1946 he moved to the Associated Electrical Industries laboratories at Aldermaston to undertake research on optics. He worked on a wide range of problems, particularly in interferometry, microscopy and metrology, and came increasingly to act as optics consultant. This work included the design and construction of several types of interference microscope and investigation of the properties and methods of manufacture of circular diffraction gratings. These gratings are being used in high-accuracy engineering metrology.

#### The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on May 1, the Secretary for Technical Co-operation, Mr. D. Vosper, stated that the foundation stone of the College of Engineering and Technology had been laid at a site in Delhi in January 1959, and the College opened two years later with a first year's intake of 150 students. Later it appeared that it would be advantageous to enable the College to award its own degrees, and on March 20 last the Indian Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs announced the intention of the Indian Government to introduce legislation to raise the status of the College to an Institute of Technology. It would then be independent, frame its own academic policies and confer degrees. To be known as "The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi", it was being planned for a capacity of 1,250 undergraduate and 300 postgraduate students. Already in 1958 and 1959 a number of British industrialists had agreed to contribute to the cost of British-manufactured equipment for the College, and £250,000 was contributed by donations and covenants to a charitable trust. The British Government had agreed to pay from the Technical Co-operation Scheme of the Colombo Plan the emoluments of several British professors to advise on curricula and start the various Departments. It had also agreed to provide other requirements such as reference books and training for librarians. The British Government and British industry had now agreed jointly to provide during the period 1963-67 a further £400,000 worth of British-manufactured equipment, and the British Government was also meeting the emoluments of up to fifteen British professors over

the same period. Mr. Vosper expressed his gratitude to British industry and to educational bodies such as the Imperial College of Science and Technology for their generous co-operation in a major undertaking in the technical assistance field.

#### Technical Aid to Commonwealth Countries

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on May 6, the Secretary for Technical Co-operation, Mr. D. Vosper, stated that his Department spent about £20.3 million on bilateral technical aid to the Commonwealth in 1962-63, and the 1963-64 estimates provided for £25.18 million. Assistance amounting to £0.65 million in 1962-63 and estimated at £0.83 million in 1963-64 was provided in support of home-based technical assistance organizations and institutions concerned with overseas development. Commonwealth countries also received technical aid from the United Nations Special Fund, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, which are financed by member countries. The United Kingdom's contribution to these was £3.2 million in 1962 and £3.9 million in 1963. In a further answer on May 7, Mr. Vosper stated that half the cost of sending each graduate volunteer overseas through the Voluntary Societies' Committee for Service Overseas was met from public funds. It was hoped to send 250 such volunteers overseas this year, and the Government was also paying £40,000 to Voluntary Service Overseas for school-leavers, while last year £1,000 had been provided for the administrative costs of the Committee.

#### Government Programme for University Finance

ON May 9 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. J. Boyd-Carpenter, announced that he had now received and considered the advice of the University Grants Committee and that the grants for the remaining academic financial years of the quinquennium, beginning in August next, would be increased by £16.1 million spread over the four years. The new figures are: 1963-64, £64 million; 1964-65, £69.4 million; 1965-66, £74.7 million; and 1966-67, £81 million. These figures are in addition to the extra provision to cover increases in academic salaries already announced, and total public expenditure on university education, including recurrent grants, salaries, capital expenditure and student awards, is now estimated at more than £760 million in the quinquennium. The University Grants Committee considers that, provided there is no further significant increase in university costs during the remainder of the quinquennium, these grants should enable the universities to reach the student target of 150,000 by 1966-67. Mr. Boyd-Carpenter also assured the House that if there were such a significant rise in costs outside the control of the universities, the problem would be considered with sympathy. The target for students would be considered afresh when the Robbins Committee reported.

#### University Re-organization in France

THE decentralization of the universities in France is described in a pamphlet issued by Ambassade de France in London (*Decentralisation of the Universities in France*. Pp. 10. London: Ambassade de France, Service de Presse et d'Information, 1963). The student population is expected to increase steadily from 237,000 in 1961-62 to about 500,000 in 1970, of whom 450,000 would be French, and accordingly 29,000 State teachers will be needed in 1970 as against 8,500 in 1960-61. The marked trend in the expansion of scientific studies will be maintained until 1970-71; by faculties the distribution of students in 1970 is forecast as: law and economics, 16 per cent; arts and human sciences, 25.5 per cent; science and technology, 43 per cent; medicine and pharmacy, 15.5 per cent; the corresponding figures for 1959 were: 18; 28; 34; and 20 per cent; and for 1949: 30; 26;