The Royal Society of South Africa : New Members

At a joint meeting of the Society and the Astronomical Society of South Africa, held on April 17, at the South African Museum, Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, the following were elected to membership: Mr. L. R. Alexander, Prof. S. Biesheuvel, Mr. M. Jehu and Dr. O. Williams.

Geometry at Oxford: Prof. M. F. Atiyah, F.R.S.

Prof. M. F. Atiyah, who has been appointed to succeed the late Prof. E. C. Titchmarsh (see *Nature*, 198, 1039; 1963) to the Savilian professorship of geometry at Oxford, is one of the leading experts in algebraic geometry, topology and differential geometry. He has been a reader in mathematics at Oxford since 1961 and has already made a considerable contribution to the development of pure mathematics there. He was born in April 1929 and was educated first in the Victoria College in Egypt and then at Manchester Grammar School. He discharged his military service with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the years 1947–49, and in the latter year he was elected a Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, where he proceeded to take the Mathematical Tripos as a wrangler in 1951, together with a distinction in Part III in 1952. He was awarded the first Smith's Prize in 1954 and obtained his Ph.D. in 1955. In the years 1954–58 he was a Research Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, during which period (1955–57) he also studied as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He was an assistant lecturer and afterwards a lecturer and Staff Fellow at Cambridge during the years 1957–61, and also a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton from September 1959 until January 1960. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962. Prof. Atiyah is distinguished for his researches in algebraic topology, but his interest and influence extend over a wide field of pure mathematics.

United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington : Dr. J. A. Saxton

Dr. John A. Saxton has been appointed director of the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington, D.C., and scientific attaché at the British Embassy there. He will take up his duties early in 1964, replacing Dr. Harry Hookway, who will be returning to the United Kingdom on completion of a three-year tour of duty. Dr. Saxton, who is forty-nine, has been deputy director of the Radio Research Station (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) since 1960. He joined the Department in 1938, working in the Radio Division of the National Physical Laboratory until the Division developed into the Radio Research Station in the early 1950's. He is well known for work on the dielectric properties of the atmosphere and on investigations of radiowave propagation at very high frequencies.

The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology

The Carnegie Institution of Washington has transferred its two laboratory buildings at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology. The Carnegie Institution will continue its present Genetics Research Unit on the premises. The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology has been organized by a group of eight universities and research institutes. Its director is Dr. John Cairns, formerly of the Australian National University at Canberra. The chairman of the board of directors is Dr. Edward Tatum, professor at the Rockefeller Institute of New York. The sponsoring institutions are the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Brooklyn College, Duke University, the New York University School of Medicine, Princeton University, the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, the Rockefeller Institute of New York, and the Sloan-Kettering Institute. The Carnegie Institution established its biological research at Cold Spring Harbor in 1904, as the Station for Experimental Evolution, with Dr. C. B. Davenport as director. It became the Institution's Department of Genetics in 1921. The present name was adopted in 1962. It was there that, in the early 1900's, Dr. George H. Shull carried on the research that led to the development of hybrid corn, which enormously increased corn yields and brought economic gain to the United States alone of more than 10 million dollars. Other research at Cold Spring Harbor has included methods of changing the hereditary characteristics of plants by means of radiation and chemicals, leading to much new theoretical knowledge as well as to the development of new and more productive types of food plants and flowers. Fundamental work in genetics continues to-day at the Carnegie Institution's Genetics Research Unit at Cold Spring Harbor, of which Dr. Alfred D. Hershey is director. Also at the Unit is Dr. Barbara McClintock, well known for her work on the genetics of maize (Indian corn); she is a member of the board of directors of the new Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology. The Carnegie Institution will provide an immediate grant of 10,000 dollars to the Laboratory.

The British Industrial Biological Research Association, Ltd.

Work has started on the erection of the laboratories of the British Industrial Biological Research Association on a site of 16½ acres at Woodmansterne Road, Carshalton, Surrey. The site is adjacent to the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Carshalton, where the Toxicology Research Unit, Neuropsychiatric Research Unit, Virus Research Unit and Laboratory Animals Centre are accommodated, and overlooks the Oaks Park. The buildings provide accommodation for laboratories, rodent rooms, dog kennels, animal administration, administration and information services, etc., totalling 18,900 sq. ft. The whole project is expected to cost £190,000 and equipment will cost an additional £50,000. Building operations commenced at the beginning of May and the estimated date of completion is May 30, 1964. The laboratories will house a staff of approximately 60 in the initial stages. The buildings will provide up-to-date and well-equipped accommodation for carrying out all modern techniques of toxicity testing, and provision is made for workers in the scientific disciplines of toxicology, experimental pathology, pharmacology, biochemistry and organic chemistry. They will enable the British Industrial Biological Research Association to provide first-class services for its member companies in its field of toxicology of food additives, cosmetics and toiletries.

Business Management Studies at Liverpool

The University of Liverpool has recently received grants totalling £107,000 towards the further development of Management Studies within the University. £84,000 of this sum has been contributed by Littlewoods Mail Order Stores, Ltd. The balance of £23,000 is being contributed jointly by the Government (through the University Grants Committee) and by the Foundation for Management Education. The University intends to extend the provision of management education for practising business men in the Department of Economics. Under this scheme a Management Development Programme has been provided for directors and senior managers operating in companies over a wide area of the North of England—approximately 300 have participated in this Programme. The emphasis throughout has been on directing business men's attentions to operational problems and the ways and means of raising operational performance. It is anticipated that the future organization of management studies within the University will be based on a number of